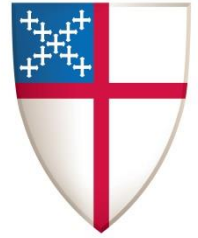




St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School



Alamogordo, New Mexico

Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel
and to seek and serve Christ in all people

2021 – September Newsletter

Greetings to each of you in this season of re-engagement and renewal,

This month, I'd like to present you with some hopeful information. I know that each of us, every day, are surrounded by messages which pull our attention back to the brokenness that surrounds us; and that this is true no matter which political party we belong to. When I look at our life together at St. John's, however, it is not brokenness I see but hope.

Our Senior Warden has been working hard to make sure that people have access to our sacramental life even when they must observe it from home because of any of a multitude of reasons. We have learned from the last year about how we can keep one another safe so that it is very unlikely that we would have to celebrate completely online unless there was an outbreak on Sunday morning.

We are also increasing our outreach once again to those who can't join us on Sunday Morning with Eucharistic Visitation. Right now we have a unique problem, we need more people who would like to be visited and receive communion on a regular basis. If you or someone you know from church would like to be visited, please contact the church office. Please do likewise if you are interested in being a Eucharistic Visitor yourself. It is a rewarding ministry that calls us deep into the sacramental life of our community (and we have some fabulous EV's to train with right now).

In some ways this is a stranger time in the pandemic then any time last year. Most of us, for good reason, feel safe because we have been vaccinated; which leaves us with the question of how to care for the unvaccinated among us. For now, the simplest and best way for us to care for the unvaccinated in our midst is to continue to mask and social distance while in the church building.

Your patience, your perseverance, and your love for one another as a community at this moment in time is a beautiful thing to see. I am deeply grateful to be your rector and pastor. Blessings from...

Your Brother in Christ (and in Hope),

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Diocese of the Rio Grande

Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn

St. John's Rector:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

St. John's Deacon:

The Rev. Aileen Walther

Day School Director:

Christine Duncan

Day School Business Director:

Karla Warren

Violinist:

Tom Lubenau

Our Vestry

Senior Warden:

Nancy Gregory

Junior Warden:

To be filled

Treasurer:

To be filled

Vestry:

Randy Burroughs, Roy Benavides

Kim Buie, John Shipe

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild:

Nikki Van Vliet

Community Kitchen:

Bill Henchar

Eucharist Ministers:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Lectors:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Mission and Outreach:

Available

Senior Warden's Corner

Dear Friends of St. John's Church,

Lest you think that COVID has stopped all the action at St. John's, take another look! Fr. Michael and your Vestry are hard at work, taking care of important church business, building a foundation for a wonderful future. Ideas galore are popping up. We're going to be more than ready when COVID finally subsides.

One of our biggest projects now underway is the professional engineering review of the state of the building. Now that the report is in, we will prioritize the items considering the urgency for repairs, then make a financial plan. We want our lovely, historic building to be around for ages to come!

In the meantime, we continue to be spiritually nourished with Fr. Michael's beautiful sermons, his amazing weekday reflections offered during the Daily Office, and his enlightening Sunday morning Adult Formation hour presentations. That hour is now being supplemented by the able work of our fresh out of seminary and ordained Deacon David-Luke, BSG, who leads Adult Formation on the first Sunday of the month.

We have added a combination in-person and livestreamed service option at our 10:15am service. Gabe is doing a wonderful job of helping us achieve our dream of livestreaming the service using multiple webcams and eventually adding a sound system.

Fr. Michael is guiding us toward our next steps in our Food Ministry with a prayer he wrote to help us take a Sabbath of Discernment. He recently led us in a period of guided reflection on the fruits of that period of discernment, and from that we have the beginnings of Key Objectives and Results that will be further refined and developed into action steps. Deacon David-Luke will be our point person with this important work.

On Sunday July 18, we held an Open House in collaboration with our next-door neighbors, OteroArtSpace. That turned out to be a huge success and lots of fun! We even learned some fun bits of new information about the history of our worship space from our neighbors! A bright future surely lies ahead with this newly developing partnership!

As always, thank you for your continuing prayers and support!

Peace,

Nancy

From the Deacon's Desk

Have you ever wondered ...

... What are the most important teachings of Judaism and where are they found? (Hint: As Christians, they are our most important as well, and Jesus learned them from the Torah) ... What is the first book of the Bible that young Jewish boys study, and why? ... Where, how and why were sacrifices made in ancient Israel? ... What are the signs of the Covenant between God & humanity? ... To whom did the mandate to keep the Sabbath apply? ... If the prescribed penalty for X,Y,Z was death, why were so few people actually executed? ... What is the difference between Elohim, YHWH ("Yahweh") & El? ... What genres are Pentateuch and when and how was it composed? ... Why are these scriptures deeply meaningful and important to us as 21st century Christians? ... What do they teach us about God and ourselves?

To explore these and many other questions, please join us for Formation Hour every Sunday at St. John's @ 9:00a.m. in the parish hall as we study the Pentateuch, the first five Books of the Bible. The Pentateuch, from the Greek *pente* (five) and *teuchos* (book) is also the Jewish Torah (signifying both "Law" and "teaching" or "instruction"). Both Christians and Jews view these five books in the same order and as a single unit as the foundation of the Bible. Though we started several months ago with Genesis and are just now beginning Leviticus, **some of the very best of the Pentateuch is yet to come during Formation Hour!** (You *really* won't want to miss Deuteronomy, though there are hidden gems in both Leviticus and Numbers as well.)

Here are some other great reasons to join us on Sundays @ 9:00am:

- You get to hang out, visit, and catch up with both 8:00 & 10:15 parishioners in a relaxed and fun forum while exploring scripture together between services.
- We have some incredible experts in Hebrew and the Old Testament, in addition to our gifted rector, who also engages us with fun icebreakers.
- The Pentateuch is foundational to the rest of the Old Testament, and provides the background from which the New Testament and Christianity ultimately emerged.
- As Christians, it represents a significant part of our "family history": These are not just sacred texts of Judaism and the family history of the Jewish people.
- Jesus studied and used Torah: It was foundational to His own life and ministry.
- The Torah chronicles the Covenant relationships between God and Noah, God and Abraham, and God and all Israel. But, for Christians it also lays the foundation for the New Covenant in Jesus Christ.
- It is an absolutely unique work: "No other work of comparable length or inclusiveness, both in terms of the time covered or the sources systematically incorporated, was produced in the Ancient Near Eastern World" (*Introduction to the Pentateuch*, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*, 7)

Please Come Join Us Sundays @ 9:00am for Formation Hour with the Pentateuch!

Soli Deo Gloria, David-Luke, BSG

What would Richard say?

Richard Hooker and Lancelot Andrewes on Scripture and Prayer

Richard Hooker had quite a bit to say about the Holy Bible (Scripture) and prayer. Another person of Hooker's time and later was Lancelot Andrewes, a friend of his who became Bishop of Chichester, Ely, and Winchester in the Church of England, a major linguist, and a key contributor to the King James Version of the Bible. He translated parts of the Old Testament from the Hebrew language and was fluent in 15 modern languages and 6 ancient ones. He led the team of scholars who perfected the biblical translation that became the King James Version that has been used by many from his time to ours. In particular, he was responsible for the translation of Genesis through II Kings. Most important, to my mind, was Andrewes' life of prayer and study of the Word. He spent five hours each morning in prayer, study, and writing. We have the opportunity to know more of him than Hooker because of his personal prayer book, *Preces Privatae*, published after his death and written in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. He wrote of confession, thanksgiving, acts of deprecation, meditations by subjects, self-examination before the Lord's Supper, daily prayers, intercession, and grace. One of his prayers is as follows:

... pour your Holy Spirit into me, which may adopt me into the number of your chosen ones; that it may teach me how I ought to pray, according to your holy will; that it may subdue all troublesome and wandering thoughts in me, while I offer up my prayers and praises to you. Don't let me serve you with my lips while having a heart that is far from you; but create a right spirit in me...

Of Hooker himself we have no knowledge about how he prayed, only what he thought of prayer. He made clear his view of both the Bible and his view of prayer.

...belief consisteth not so much in knowledge as in acknowledgment of all things that heavenlie wisdom revealeth; (*Lawes*, Folger, V.63.1, 28-30; p.290).

He became more explicit in this description from the *Lawes*.

Betwene the throne of God in heaven and his Church upon earth here militant if it be so that Angels have their continuall intercourse, where should we finde the same more verified then in these two ghostlie exercises, the one 'Doctrine', the other 'Prayer?' For what is thassemlinge of the Church to learne, but the receiving of Angels descended from above? What to pray, but the sendinge of Angels upward? ... As teachinge bringeth us to know that God is our supreme truth; so prayer testifieth that we acknowledge him our soveraigne good (*Lawes*, V.23.1.7-6, p.110).

Were it not for the fact of conflict between believers of the Christian faith we would probably never have heard of Richard Hooker. With Andrewes, we would have heard of him, but the challenge of his type of writing might have kept us away. The times in which both Hooker and Andrewes lived were deeply challenging. Everyone had to fit in the same church and if they didn't, the price could be death. Today, it is hard to keep the number of churches straight in our minds, much less those of non-Christian varieties. Yet, to my mind, the important thing to ask oneself is what does God think and do we respond to what God asks of us and our relationship to other people.

From the Day School

Bible Verse: The Lord God made all. Genesis 2:9

Special Dates: The last day of our summer program was August 4th.

We started the school year on August 9th

Special Events: None

News:

Unfortunately, we had to close for our 2nd week of school due to COVID. But below is what we started and hope to accomplish this month:

The first priority of the year is getting to know our students. We do this in many ways, but one is with “All About Me” books. We ask for family pictures, explore what the students like, where they live, who is in their family, pets they may have, their likes, interests, etc. At the end of August, these books are sent home. Some pictures of family are kept throughout the classrooms for students to look at and talk about with their friends.

August is also the time the classes learn about Creation. This is a two-week project and artwork for it will be displayed on the school bulletin board in the parish hall.

Students will get back in the swing of our additional programs by September. These programs include 20 minutes, weekly, in the following areas: Science, Technology, Music & Movement, Engineering, and Mathematics. We also emphasize work on literacy skills as well as bible knowledge.

Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
5-Sep	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1-17	Mark 7:24-37
12-Sep	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 116:1-8	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
19-Sep	Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22	Psalm 54	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
26-Sep	Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29	Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing Bag Ministry: New Ministry at St. John's

Blessing Bags contain **travel** size items (i.e. hand sanitizer, small note books, toothbrush, toothpaste, pens, pencils, shampoo, deodorant, granola bars, soap, tuna/cracker packs, underwear, socks etc). We place several of the items in a gallon storage bag and distribute them to those in need. Currently, we are working closely with Pastor Mike Degner, COPE and our community kitchen.

If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Sharon Kelman at 757 718 9451 or email: ke4zia@gmail.com. You may bring any items you purchase to the church and deposit them in the bag that is located in the Narthex any Sunday.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Seminar

The Brotherhood is a group of men who engage in the study of scripture and service. We currently meet each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar at the cafeteria at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in August and September

August Birthdays:

Harriet Lubenau (8/1), Steve Van Vliet (8/2), Darlene Major (8/4), Roy Benavides (8/6), Nikki Van Vliet (8/6), Geoff Leking (8/15), Deanna Overstreet (8/17), Sarah Drinkwater (8/18) and John Buie (8/19)

Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries:

Susan and Skip Morrison (8/2) and Makayla and Alec Robinson (8/6) Happy Anniversary to all!

Birthdays for September:

Randy Burroughs (9/3), Dottie Moon (9/7), Norm Mauger (9/9), Gabe Mauger (9/14) and Ann bagby (9/20)

Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries for September:

Hariett and Tom Lubenau (9/6)

Happy Anniversary!

Caring card ministry

I would like to thank everyone who has donated cards, stamps and stickers to this ministry. We would like to help you celebrate **ALL** occasions. So, if you haven't signed up on our birthday (we just need month and day- **NO YEARS**) and anniversary lists, please do so. If you know of someone who may enjoy receiving one of our cards, please let me know. The sign- up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. If you prefer, you may contact me directly: Sharon Kelman email: ke4zia@gmail.com or 757-718 9451 call or text.

Pet Prayer Chain

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let me know. Please consider joining our pet prayer chain volunteers. You may contact: Sharon Kelman at ke4zia@gmail.com or 757 718-9451 call or text.

Daily Office

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Links to these services can be found on the website. The service is also streamed to our Facebook page when technology allows.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study on Exodus. We began our journey with Abraham and are now reading through the story of Exodus. The formation hour is now offered in a hybrid format, with links on the website or in person.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

Food Box Ministry

As many of you know, our church community has been doing amazing work through a grant made possible by the USDA farms to families initiative, a form of COVID relief. After serving more than 1000 meals over the months that we were involved in that program, it became clear that we were meeting a different kind of need. Now that the grant has run out and things are returning to normal, Father Michael is calling for a time of sabbath and planning for next steps. To that end, he has composed the prayer below. If you would take some time to pray with us in the coming weeks, we would appreciate it as we continue to discern how to serve our community in the name of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, whose eyes and ears, hands and feet we are. Give us eyes that see the needs of our community through the lense of your loving-kindness. Give us ears that hear the sprirt speaking through the mouth of our neighbors. Give us hands that reach out and build up your kingdom in our midst; and give us feet that carry the Good News to the darkest corners of our world; in the name of the one who died and rose again, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

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