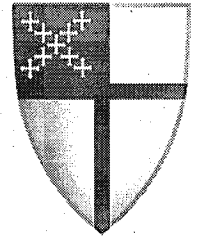


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2022 – July Newsletter

Greetings as we enter ordinary time together!

We are now preparing to enter the heart of Ordinary Time. We will soon be far past the festivals of the spring and will still have a while to go until our festal life picks up again in the fall. In the meantime, we are left with a huge swath of time that nothing seems to fill. And that seems perhaps to be the point.

In this way our experience of the church calendar is not that different from that of school children, we have had homework to do for seemingly the entirety of the last 8 months. This began with All Saints' Day in November and brought us through to Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Each Feast brought with it some piece of theology we were called to live out in our lives; from how our God reveals Godself through the interactions we have with the Saints to how we are sent out to proclaim the Good News, including the message of the trinity, that love is so important to the being of God that God cannot be defined apart from Love.

Now our theological task is different; because the question we are asked in the readings is fundamentally changed during ordinary time. Our work during Feasts is to make doctrine come alive in new ways in our daily lives. Our work during Ordinary Time is to see the Holy in the normal.

May we who have been formed by the Spirit be empowered to see the Spirit moving in the world around us.

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

MS

The Senior Warden shares highlights of recent Vestry meetings

Summary of May 2022 Vestry Meeting

The Consent Agenda, including last month's meeting minutes and financials, was the first item. Next, Fr Michael discussed the Discretionary Fund. The Discretionary Fund is money set aside for the pastoral staff for pious and charitable purposes. Fr Michael gave an update on what the Discretionary Fund had been used for the first 3 months of 2022. There were 3 different types of expenses, including utility assistance, Blessing Bag supplies, and food. The financials mention Discretionary Fund in the Income section. This is from the first Sunday plate. The Discretionary Fund is also seen at the end of Expenses and on the Designated Funds sheet.

Fr Michael gave us more information on the Day School. The increased fee schedule is now used with recruitment materials for this coming fall. We are already getting enrollments. Coincidentally, there is new legislation at the state level for funding to assist parents offset Day School fees. This should help our enrollments. Fr Michael has been hoping for a Music Educator to provide musical enrichment to the students, and break time for teachers that they could use for planning. A Music Educator would improve our relationship in the community. Fr Michael is pleased to report that we have a highly qualified candidate (Hannah D Burnett) and he offered her the position. He plans to offer a Letter of Agreement to Hannah, as Music Educator, and a Letter to Kami, as Director. The Vestry indicated their full support.

Fr. Michael gave an update of the Community Kitchen. Bill and Kathy Ann will be working at a Volunteer Recruitment Fair this Saturday to recruit volunteers. Nancy spoke about the grants St. John's has just received to help pay for food.

John gave a Junior Warden report on places around the church that either need repair or have recently been repaired. John spoke about his idea to add a red colored light to illuminate the steeple cross. The Vestry and Fr. Michael supported the idea of illumination on occasional, special days. John will begin to investigate how to engineer it.

John gave a presentation on Angel Tree, a program to give gifts to the children of an incarcerated parent. John is interested in doing Angel Tree gifts this year and in having a party in the parish hall for the kids. St. John's participated in Angel Tree in 2020.

Fr. Michael then discussed the Bishop's Letter regarding a return to the Common Cup. The Bishop recommends a 3 step process. Step 1 is to open a discussion of how things were done before Covid and then visioning for the future.

There are a couple of Covid things to tie together now, including to remind people that we are in the Green for now, and how we will reinstitute our safety protocol if our county goes back to Yellow. Fr Michael would like to send a letter to the congregation about where we are in general, and to open up the opportunity for discussion about returning to the Common Cup. Vestry gave full support to that action.

Schedule of Sunday Readings

| Date | Old Testament | Psalm | Epistle | Gospel |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 3-Jul | Isaiah 66:10-14 | Psalm 66:1-8 | Galatians 6:1-16 | Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 |
| 10-Jul | Deuteronomy 30:9-14 | Psalm 25:1-9 | Colossians 1:1-14 | Luke 10:25-37 |
| 17-Jul | Genesis 18:1-10a | Psalm 15 | Colossians 1:15-28 | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 24-Jul | Genesis 18:20-32 | Psalm 138 | Colossians 2:6-19 | Luke 11:1-13 |
| 31-Jul | Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 | Psalm 49:1-11 | Colossians 3:1-11 | Luke 12:13-21 |

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| Date | Sunday | Reader - 8:00 | Reader - 10:15 | Preacher | Altar Guild |
|--------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 3-Jul | Pentecost 4 | Joyce Summers | Yvonne Perkins | The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater | Elliott |
| 10-Jul | Pentecost 5 | John Shipe | Nancy Gregory | The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater | Kelman |
| 17-Jul | Pentecost 6 | Randy Burroughs | Sharon Kelman | The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater | Henchar |
| 24-Jul | Pentecost 7 | John Shipe | Nancy Gregory | The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater | Van Vliet |
| 31-Jul | Pentecost 8 | Joyce Summers | Hannah D. Burnett | The Rev. David-Luke Henton, BSG | Elliott |

Community Kitchen Schedule

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| July 6 | St. Joseph's |
| July 13 | St. John's |
| June 21 | Christ Community Church |
| June 28 | 1 st Presbyterian |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Gwen (7/9), Joe (7/10), Ezra (7/22) and Father Michael (7/29) Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries:

Nikki and Steve (7/7) and Louise and Fred (7/31) Happy Anniversary to all!

Blessing Bag Ministry

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 COPE and local partners in addition to Rio Grande Borderland Ministries.

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 in the Parish Hall. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

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 David-Luke or Nancy know.

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 Deuteronomy. Been to a lot of bible studies? None? All are welcome.

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

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

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

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