

# May 2022

### Holy Apostles "Grapevine"

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this message, I have to be honest and say that I can barely bring myself to watch or read the news these days. The War in Ukraine is now into its third month and the images of destruction, death and suffering are truly mind boggling and heart breaking. My prayers for the miracle of peace seem insufficient, leaving me feeling helpless in the face of something much greater than me. Not to mention all the other tragedies in our world that never seem to take a break. And so it begs the question, how do we as Christians respond when we see such reminders of the evil and brokenness in our world?

During the Easter Season, our second reading chosen for our Worship services, come from the Book of Revelation and although the images and symbolism of Revelation can seem kind of scary; in truth, the Book of Revelation offers us a word of hope and comfort. In the very first chapter Jesus says, *"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."* Why should we not be afraid? Well, the writer of Revelation tells us, because Jesus has won the victory through his death and resurrection.

During my sermon last Sunday, I shared the following story: Once in a public park, a spectator was watching a chess game and was overheard to say after a certain move by one of the players, "that's it!" By that he meant that although the other contestant might squirm for a time and even for a time is able to prolong the game, that one decisive move had determined the outcome of the whole game. The opponent might yet believe it; the other spectators might not have noticed; but that one spectator knew and because he knew, he watched the rest of the game in a different light.

That's it! That's the whole message of the Book of Revelation. Through the power of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has made his move in human history; the end is not in question. God's opponents might not yet believe it; others in our world might not have noticed, but we, who worship and believe in Jesus Christ, know that Christ has won the final victory—the battle may still rage, but the victory has been won. Therefore, we need not be afraid!

This does not mean, however, that we are free to remain detached and uninvolved in the brokenness of our world. (Somehow thinking, 'well if God has won the victory, why do I need to do any-

thing?') On Maundy Thursday, we heard the story of how Jesus washed his disciples' feet (including that of Peter and Judas) and then Jesus says to the disciples, *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."* When Jesus said that, I truly believe he meant loving and caring for all of God's people—not just the ones that are easy to love or are most like us or who we gather around the table with—but all people. As Christians following Jesus' example, we are called to not keep the good news of Jesus Christ to ourselves or our small circle of friends—we are called to love each other—to serve one another—to make a difference in Jesus' name in our world—shining the light of Christ on the darkness in our world that so often threatens to over-whelm us—trusting that in Jesus *"the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."* 

May God in Jesus Christ give us the courage and the confidence to make a difference! Pastor Sheryl



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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!	Simonds. thew!	Bishop Barker Annual Visit Bishop Barker will be with us on May 16th @ 6 p.m. for Worship with a meal to follow. Vestry will provide the meat, rolls, drinks and table settings. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share and enjoy some fellowship together.			
Priests-in-charge:The Reverend Chris Kester-Beyer(402)694-9189 (cell)The Reverend Sheryl Kester-Beyer(402)694-9182 (cell)Deacon:The Reverend Angela Jones(308)631-1922 (cell)Senior Warden:Maryruth Reed(308)6263-2491Junior Warden :Judy Kieler(308)787-0191 (cell)Holy Apostles Website:www.holyapostlesmitchell.orgFacebook:Holy Apostles Website:www.holyapostlesmitchell.orgFacebook:Holy Apostles Website:(402)341-5373Waw.episcopal-ne.org (website)UOCESE OF NEBRASKA - RESOURCE LIST(402)341-5373109 N 18th St(855)-341-5373Omaha, NE 68102(402)341-5373www.episcopal-ne.org (website)(402)341-8683 (fax)dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org (e-mail)The Rt. Reverend J. Scott BarkerSbarker@episcopal-ne.orgBishop:The Rt. Reverend J. Scott BarkerSbarker@episcopal-ne.orgDiocesan AdministratorLachisha BaskinDioadmin@episcopal-ne.orgDirector of Finance:Beth ByrneBbyrne@episcopal-ne.orgArchdeacon:The Reverend Betsy BennettDeaconbetsy@windstream.net					

#### <u>Servers</u>

May 1st Jenny HughsonMay 8th Leann SatoMay 16th Jenny HughsonMay 22nd Leeann SatoMay 28th Stephanie Canon

Altar Guild Cindy Yamamoto Nikki Rose

<u>Coffee Hour</u> Volunteer Welcomed!

#### May Birthdays

May 4 Mae Sakurada May 8 Jacob Knaub May 15 Dennis Keiler May 16 Oran Symonds May 17 Tyler Placencio May 18 Kathy Propp May 21 Bill Raney May 28th Matthew Symonds

#### **May Anniversaries**

Chad and Kathy Propp May 12th

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

There are no altar flowers listed at this time.

#### St Monica's Sunday

Bishop Barker is strongly encouraging us to support the ministry of Saint Monica's in Lincoln. This ministry was begun in 1964 to assist women desiring ways to transform their lives but who have no resources to do so. Traditionally, St Monica's has been designated as the first Sunday after May 4th, however we will designate the Third Sunday, May 15th, our discretionary fund Sunday and all undesignated cash will be sent to St Monica's or checks written to St Monica's will be forwarded. Checks can also be sent directly to St Monica's at:

St Monica's

120 Wedgewood Dr. Lincoln NE 68510-2431

## All Worship Services will be both In-Person and on Online via Facebook Live

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May 2022									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
1 3 Easter Worship @ 10:30 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6	7			
4 Easter Worship @ 10:30 a.m.	9	10	11	12	13	14			
15 5 Easter Worship@ 10:30 a.m.	16 Bishop's Visit 6 PM Worship meal to follow	17	18	19	20	21			
22 6 Easter Worship @ 10:30 AM	23	24	25	26	27	28			
<b>29</b> 7 Easter	30	31							

#### April 17th, loose offering will go to St Monica's in Lincoln.

