

Holy Apostles "Grapevine"

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church

FROM THE DESKS OF
PASTORS SHERYL AND CHRIS KESTER-BEYER

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Do you see what I see?" said the night wind to the little lamb. Yes, in December it seems all our attention is on Christmas. For all practical purposes it has become a month-long celebration. There will be gatherings and shopping, baking and family, all throughout the month.

But what do you see? Or maybe the question is what are you looking for? Because what we are looking for often determines what we will see. If we are looking for our keys, we are not going to notice much else until we have looked in every coat pocket, emptied our purses and retraced our steps until we have found them. Whenever you lose something, especially if it has value, (emotional or material), it often dominates your thoughts, especially losses you know won't be found, like the loss of a loved one.

They call it a blue Christmas when that happens---you know they are gone like the car keys, but no matter where or how hard you look.... Well, they aren't going to come back. They are gone from our sight.

This makes for a difficult Christmas for many of us. When the rest of the world is looking for a party, we wish we could find that loved one for just one more embrace. Everywhere we turn, every ornament we hang, we see their face. We smell their cologne, hear their voice, but still we look...hoping to see.

"Do you see what I see?" said the night wind, "A star, a star with a tail as big as a kite." The magi saw a star in the night and began to follow it because they were looking for a king. When we are looking for something, what guides us? In some cases it's a flashlight hoping to catch a glimmer from the diamond that once graced our wedding rings. In some cases it's simply a word or words, comforting and caring.

I will end with a word, okay two words, "Merry Christmas" and in those words my prayer is that you find what you are looking for. Hope for the future, joy in believing and comfort in loss.

Merry Christmas
Pastors Chris and Sheryl



Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

1730 18th St/PO Box 188
Mitchell, NE 69357
(308) 623-1969

Email: apostles@embarqmail.com

Sunday service: 10:30am
Office hours: Mornings - MTW

Mitchell Ministerial

Association Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is asking for the following donation item(s):

December-Spaghetti Sauce

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Pantry coordinators:

Susan Weitzel-(308)623-2684 or

Karen French (308)623-188

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program is asking for the

Following donation item(s):

Cold Cereal

Fruit filled breakfast bars

Great Food & Great Fellowship

Also, a reminder that we will be hosting another community meal, on Nov. 29, at 5:30. We will have a German theme. Please come join us for some good food and great company.

December ECW Meeting

A reminder that the December 7 ECW meeting will be held at the home of Jenny Hughson. They will meet at 12:30 for lunch, which Jenny is providing. Please RSVP, to Jenny, if you are planning on attending so she knows how many to expect. Thank you!

Ministerial Association Youth Gathering

December 10th from 5 to 7 p.m.

All youth of Holy Apostles are invited to join the newly formed Mitchell/Morrill Ministerial Association Youth Group for a Hay Rack Ride and Christmas Caroling Party on Sunday, December 10th from 5 to 7 p.m. starting at the Mitchell United Methodist Church. All ages of children and youth are invited as well as any adults or parents who would like to participate. After we are done caroling, we will return to the church for hot chocolate, food and games. Any questions, talk to Pastors Sheryl or Chris

FYI- Names and Contact Information

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Priests-in-charge: | The Reverend Chris Kester-Beyer | (402)694-9189 (cell) |
| | The Reverend Sheryl Kester-Beyer | (402)694-9182 (cell) |
| | | (308)631-7656 (Rector) |
| Deacon: | The Reverend Angela Jones | (308)631-1922 (cell) |
| Senior Warden | Judy Kieler | (308)225-4645 |
| Junior Warden | Deb Yamamoto | (970)576-0644 |
| Holy Apostles Website | www.holyapostlesmitchell.org | |
| Facebook | Holy Apostles Mitchell NE | |

DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA - RESOURCE LIST

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 109 N 18 th St | 855-341-5373 |
| Omaha, NE 68102 | (402)341-5373 |
| www.episcopal-ne.org (website) | (402)341-8683 (fax) |
| dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org (e-mail) | |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Bishop: | The Rt. Reverend J. Scott Barker | Sbarker@episcopal-ne.org |
| Canon to the Ordinary | The Reverend Canon Elizabeth Easton | Leaston@episcopal-ne.org |
| Diocesan Administrator | Lindsey Rowe | Dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org |
| Director of Finance | Beth Byrne | Bbyrne@episcopal-ne.org |
| Archdeacon | The Reverend Betsy Bennett | Deaconbetsy@windstream.net |

(Diocesan Environmental Ministries & Ministry of Diaconate)

December Sunday Service Assignments

| Dates | Lector/Server | Acolytes | Ushers | Gifts | Coffee |
|--------------|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 12/3 | Andee/Maryruth | Matt | Gilbert K/Nick S | Steve & Sylvia | Deb |
| 12/10 | Marilyn J/Jenny | Clancy | Lee H/John P | Nikki | Pete & Nancy |
| 12/17 | Deb/Maryruth | Matt | Nick S/Steve J | Steve & Marilyn | Leann & Nancy |
| 12/24 | 10:30 am will be Morning Prayer with the kids program | | | NA | Deb & kids |
| 12/24 (5:30) | Leann/Jenny | Mary & Merrill | Lee H/Larry W | Sharon | NA |
| 12/31 | Sylvia/Maryruth | Matt | Gilbert K/Nick S | Nick & Katy | Chris & Steph |
| 1/7 | Amber/Maryruth | Mary & Merrill | Steve J/Larry W | Pete | Andee |

December Altar: Nikki Rose & Pete Okamoto

December Coffee Hour snacks provider: Nancy Sakurada

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Dec 4 | Patty Kurtz | Dec 7 | Scott Lane | Dec 19 | Lucy Jones |
| Dec 4 | Rich Taedter | Dec 7 | Robert Marlowe | Dec 23 | Merrill Newman |
| Dec 6 | Margaret Fiegel | Dec 15 | Nick Sakurada | | |

Anniversaries:

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Dec 4 | Mark & Annette Knaub | Dec 31 | Abel & Amber Plasencio |
| Dec 30 | Lee & Jenny Hughson | | |

Dear Friends of Holy Apostles,

We wanted to let you know that at the last meeting of the Vestry, we authorized our Treasurer, to transfer money from Memorial Funds to the General Fund Account for the purposes of covering our end of the year operating expenses. What this means is that while we began the year with a small cushion, the monthly giving to Holy Apostles is simply not meeting our monthly expenses. We are grateful to everyone for their faithful giving and are asking that if you can afford to do so to think about giving a special end of the year gift to help us end 2017 in the black. Also, even though November 19th was the day for everyone to turn in their pledge cards for 2018, we are asking (if you did not already do so) to prayerfully consider increasing your giving for the coming year. If interested, copies of the Vestry minutes and Financial Reports are available on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Again, thank you for your generous giving to the work and ministry of Holy Apostles, it is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Poinsettias

The Altar Guild is collecting donations for Christmas poinsettias. The container for donations and a sign-up sheet is located on the small table by the choir area.

December Altar Flowers

Given by:
12/3 Margaret Fiegel

In memory of:
Lowell Fiegel, James & Margaret Haggarty
Les & Leslie Spreckley

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.
Isaiah 43:2

| December 2017 | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 26 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service | 27 | 28 | 29 5:30 pm Community Meal @ Beecher Hall German theme | 30 | 1 Group Reunion@ Penny's 7 am | 2 |
| 3 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service 4-6 pm Confirmation Class | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 12:30 pm ECW meeting @ Hughson's | 8 Group Reunion@ Penny's 7 am | 9 |
| 10 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service Vestry Meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am | 16 |
| 17* Consecration Sunday 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am | 23 |
| 24 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Morning Prayer Service 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist Service | 25 Merry Christmas | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am | 30 |
| 31 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service | | | | | | |

*As third Sunday, December 17 will be the Pastors' Discretionary Fund offering date. Any cash in offering plate will go to this fund.