

## 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,

I have to be honest and say that I am entering into this Advent/Christmas season with a certain amount of grief. When my family gathered for Christmas last year, I had a sense it would be our last Christmas with my father, but I was still not prepared for his death to come so soon afterwards. And yet, as we gathered around his bed, and I placed my hand on his forehead and pronounced the benediction for the last time, I felt God's presence among us and it was for me a holy moment and I knew God's peace--a peace that remains to this day.

Several years ago now, Chris and I had the privilege of being with his brother, Lynn, as he took his final breath. Later on, as Chris talked with our oldest daughter, Jennifer, on the phone, he told of being with Lynn as he breathed his last. "I have always found that being with someone as they leave this world, to be a holy moment" he told her. Our sister-in-law Sharon, when talking with the hospice nurse later commented that Lynn went so peacefully and the hospice nurse commented that she had seen that kind of peaceful death before—it happens, she said, when someone has confidence in where they are going and that their loved ones will be alright.

Yes, it is a holy moment to be with someone as they pass from this world to the next, especially when we have confidence that God is there to receive them into his eternal rest.

A holy moment—not unlike that night over two thousand years ago when God left eternity to enter into this world—into our world. Those gathered there on that first Christmas night, probably didn't understand the enormity of what was happening, yet Luke tells us that 'Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.' (Luke 2:19) That's what we do with holy moments—we treasure them and ponder them and draw strength from them.

You may wonder what exactly makes a moment holy—in truth, it's kind of hard to explain—but the best way I know to describe it is to speak about it as that moment when God enters into a particular time and place and we know that God is there in a very real way. The birth of a child, a relationship healed, a life transformed, a last breath—these are holy moments because God is there bringing forth new life. That's the promise of Christmas—that this one who came and dwelt among us—is Emmanuel, God-with-Us.

May you have a blessed and holy Christmas,  
Pastor Sheryl



**Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church**

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

Email: [apostles@embarqmail.com](mailto: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-Rice**

our 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):

**Fruit/granola breakfast bars**

**Thanksgiving**

This year, Saint Francis, in Scottsbluff will be hosting the community Thanksgiving meal. They will provide the turkey, but would appreciate the contribution of any sides or desserts

If you plan on attending, please sign up on the list in the narthex so they can better prepare. Let them know how many will attend and what you plan to bring.

I believe they hope to start serving at 11:30 am this Thursday, 11/28.

**Christmas Basket Family**

Once again, Margaret is coordinating Holy Apostles support for the Ministerial Association Christmas Basket Family program.

This year, our family includes 4 children, 2 boys, aged 10 & 12 as well as 2 girls, aged 6 & 8.

Please see Margaret if you have any questions about how you can support this deeply appreciated community outreach program.

**Volunteer Needed**

As many of you know, my schedule gets extremely busy once tax season starts and I have asked the pastors to be liberated from newsletter duty from January through April.

They have asked that I put out a call for someone with familiarity with Word's Publisher program to assume this task.

I should be able to complete the newsletter in December for January, but then will need some time off.

Please see the pastors for more information.

**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)

Deacon:	The Reverend Angela Jones	(308)631-1922 (cell)
Senior Warden	Maryruth Reed	(308)623-2491
Junior Warden	Leann Sato	(308)641-9083
Holy Apostles Website	<a href="http://www.holyapostlesmitchell.org">www.holyapostlesmitchell.org</a>	
Facebook	Holy Apostles Mitchell NE	

**DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA - RESOURCE LIST**

109 N 18 <sup>th</sup> St	855-341-5373
Omaha, NE 68102	(402)341-5373
<a href="http://www.episcopal-ne.org">www.episcopal-ne.org</a> (website)	(402)341-8683 (fax)
<a href="mailto:dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org">dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org</a> (e-mail)	

Bishop:	The Rt. Reverend J. Scott Barker	<a href="mailto:Sbarker@episcopal-ne.org">Sbarker@episcopal-ne.org</a>
Canon to the Ordinary	The Revered Canon Elizabeth Easton	<a href="mailto:Leaston@episcopal-ne.org">Leaston@episcopal-ne.org</a>
Diocesan Administrator	Lachisha Baskin	<a href="mailto:Dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org">Dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org</a>
Director of Finance	Beth Byrne	<a href="mailto:Bbyrne@episcopal-ne.org">Bbyrne@episcopal-ne.org</a>
Archdeacon	The Reverend Betsy Bennett	<a href="mailto:Deaconbetsy@windstream.net">Deaconbetsy@windstream.net</a>

*(Diocesan Environmental Ministries & Ministry of Diaconate)*

## December Sunday Service Assignments

Dates	Lector/Server	Acolytes	Ushers	Gifts	Coffee
11/24	Sylvia/Steph	Clancey	the Raneys	Deb & kids	Deb & Cindy
12/1	Deb/Sister E-S	Bill	Steve J/Chris	Chris & Steph	Pete & Nancy
12/8	Steph/Maryruth	Matthew	Deb	Nick & Katie	Jenny & Andee
12/15	Marilyn/Jenny	Clancey	Mel & Nick	Sharon	Leann & Nancy
12/22	Sylvia/Leann	Merrill	Steve J/Chris	Nikki	Steph & Sylvia
12/24	Deb/Maryruth	Mary	the Raneys	Nancy & Leann	Deb & Cindy
12/29	Leann/Steph	Matthew	Nick & Steve J	Steve & Sylvia	Steve & Marilyn
1/5	Steph/Sister E-S	Bill	Deb	Deb	Nick & Katie

December Altar: Judy Kieler & Jenny Hughson

December Coffee Hour snacks provider: Judy Kieler

## 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 30	Lee & Jenny Hughson
Dec 31	Abel & Amber Plasencio

## December Altar Flowers

### Given by:

12/1 Margaret Fiegel

### In memory of:

Lowell Fiegel, Margaret & James Haggarty

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

2 Corinthians 9:15

<b>December 2019</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	2	3	4	5 ECW meeting at Jenny Hughson's house 12:30 pm (Bring cookies for shut-ins)	6	7
8 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15* 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	23	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	30	31	1	2	3	4

\*As third Sunday, December 15 will be the Pastors' Discretionary Fund Collection Day. Any cash in offering plate will be deposited in that fund.

Please note that Children's and Adult Sunday School will not take place during Christmas vacation but will resume in January.