



December 2021

Holy Apostles “Grapevine”

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church

1730 18th Street, P. O. Box 188,

Mitchell, Nebraska, 69357

Remember the old Myth Busters? I loved that show! They took popular urban myths or legends about all kinds of things and tried to prove or disprove if they could have happened the way the legend says. Like sticking your finger in the end of a gun, (a nice Bugs Bunny/Elmer Fudd routine), but of course, it cannot happen in real life. They proved it couldn't! (No they didn't stick their finger in the end of a gun; they used a fake finger kind of like a crash test dummy affair.) They even took on the menthos/coke eruptions. Yes, it works but what they couldn't do was break it down and explain how or why.

What if we applied that to Christmas? No, not Christmas itself, there is enough historical evidence for that. I'm talking about some of the things that have sprung up around Christmas and confuse us. They range from the simply distracting like how many magi were there anyway, to the downright pernicious; like, does Santa really keep a 'naughty or nice' list? While this may help young children fueled by sugar cookies and other Christmas treats hold their energy levels down, this can adversely affect our faith. We begin to think that God has a 'naughty and nice' list and that we better be 'good' so that we can get to heaven. No matter how much we proclaim faith in the work of Jesus Christ for our salvation, I am truly frustrated at how often Christianity is perceived as a 'Santa Claus' religion; if you are 'good enough, you will get into heaven!" That's definitely a myth that needs busting! Eternal Life comes by grace through faith and that is a gift of God, (yes, Ephesians 2:8).

So, what other myths or Christmas 'urban legends' need busting? Could be that already happened for you last year. I must confess last year toppled a myth I had long perpetuated. I would stand before the congregation on the Sunday the youth were to do their program and proclaim it just doesn't seem like Christmas until the youth bring us the Christmas story. Well, last year we couldn't have the youth program and though it wasn't the same, Christmas was still celebrated.

Since last year was turned on its head, and many of our Christmas traditions literally went out the window, this year gives us an opportunity; an opportunity to bust some myths and start anew especially recapturing the important stuff like celebrating Immanuel, God with us, instead of stressing over whether our Christmas presents will make it off the shipping containers in time. Instead we can put our focus on celebrating God's coming and the hope and promise that God will come again.

Maybe one of the biggest myths that needs busting is proclaiming, 'Merry Christmas' because for some Christmas just isn't all that 'merry'. And no, Christmas won't be ruined if the salesclerk says to you, "Happy Holidays." because despite what anyone else might say, God still comes and God still speaks to us, "Peace on Earth, good will to all." So bust some myths this year and find God born anew among us.

Pastor Chris





1730 18th Street/P.O. Box 188
 Mitchell, NE, 69357
 308/623-1969
 Email: holyapostlesne@gmail.com
 Sunday Worship@10:30 a.m.
 Office Hours: Mornings-MTW

**Mitchell Ministerial
 Association
 Food Pantry**

Contact Number: 308/641-7326

Food Pantry Request :
 Instant rice (no bagged rice)

BackPack Program:
 Fruit cups or pudding cups



We have names for two families to provide for this year's Christmas gift baskets. We don't know yet how many children there are, but please contact Margaret Fiegel for further information or leave a donation on the table in the Narthex marked Christmas gifts.

**Christmas Eve Worship Dec
 24th at 5:30 PM**

**There will be a candlelight
 service with communion.
 Come celebrate the birth
 of the Christ child.**

ECW News

The ECW will meet at Jenny Hughson's on Dec 2nd at 12:30 PM. Please let Jenny know if you plan to attend.

The ECW once again sent gift cards to our college students prior to finals week. If you would like to contribute towards the cost, please send your donation to Andee Symonds 2132 Hwy 29 Mitchell NE 69357

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)6263-2491
Junior Warden :	Judy Kieler	(308)787-0191 (cell)
Holy Apostles Website:	www.holyapostlesmitchell.org	Facebook: Holy Apostles Mitchell NE

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Archdeacon:	The Reverend Betsy Bennett	Deaconbetsy@windstream.net

Servers

Dec 5th Jenny Hughson

Dec 12th Maryruth Reed

Dec 19th Leann Sato

Dec 24th Maryruth Reed

Dec 26th Jenny Hughson

Altar Guild

Maryruth Reed Jenny Hughson

December Birthdays

Dec 4 Patty Kurtz

Dec 7 Scott Lane

Dec 4 Rich Taedter

Dec 15 Nick Sakurada

Dec 6 Margaret Fiegel

Dec 23 Merrill Newman

December Anniversaries

Dec 4 Mark & Annette Knaub

Dec 31 Abel & Amber Plasencio

Flower Chart

December 24 The Johnson & Francisco Families in memory of Loved Ones



Reverse Advent Calendar

The holidays can be a difficult time for many, especially those living on a tight budget. This holiday season create your own Reverse Advent Calendar. Set up a box at home or at work and add one item to the box each day until Christmas Eve.

Donations from your Reverse Advent Calendar can be brought to the church and we will deliver them to the Mitchell Food Pantry or the Backpack program depending on the items donated or you may donate to somewhere of your choice.

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

December 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 ECW mtg at Jenny Hughson's @ 12:30 PM	3	4
5 Advent 2 Worship @ 10:30 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Advent 3 Worship@ 10:30 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Advent 4 Worship @ 10:30 AM	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship @ 5:30 PM	25
26 Christmas 1 Worship @ 10:30 AM	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

**On December 19th, (the 3rd Sunday of the Month)
any cash received will go to the Priest's Discretionary Fund.
Thanks for your generosity!**