

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,

Are we there yet? A popular refrain from the back seat by a bored youngster, whose game batteries have died and doesn't have their own phone yet. The drive, whether it's just across town or across the country, becomes something to simply be endured. It seems that 2020 has become that kind of ride. Some hope on November 3rd it will all be over, all the hype, hysteria, and health warnings will fade away. Some are pouting and kicking the back of the front seat to make sure everyone knows how annoyed they are. Some are just glaring out the window resentful they have to be in the car at all. That's 2020.

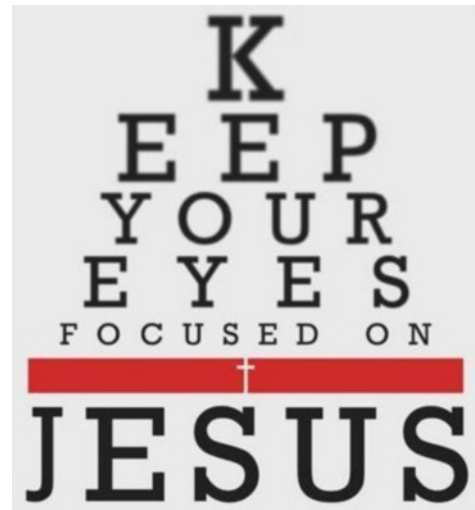
For us there is an alternative, and I think this alternative is important for us to consider since we still have a third of 2020 left. The writer of Hebrews urges us to *'run with perseverance the race that is set before us'* with our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1).

Keeping our focus on Jesus is more than an old gospel hymn cliché, rather it encourages the faithful (that's us!) to keep our heads up, our eyes on Jesus (and on Jesus' words and deeds for inspiration and encouragement) and to keep running the race of life and faith; not getting discouraged and not giving up just because the race is not as easy as we thought it would be.

This doesn't mean we ignore 2020 and all that is going on around us. These words of encouragement come on the heels of a long list of those who have run in different times and diverse backgrounds but all meeting struggles and hardship with God's help. They journeyed on faithfully, wrestling with adversity *'by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises...'* (Hebrews 11:35). The writer calls these individuals our 'fan base' cheering us on in our own journeys. Keeping our eyes on Jesus we meet the continuing challenges and face them. Lately, I have been given to saying, "Can 2020 get any worse?" I've stopped saying that as new fires break out, hurricanes continue to slam the south and political tensions just seem to boil hotter and hotter. Yes, there is time left in 2020 for a lot to happen.

Who knows? Still we pray, 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, ON EARTH, as it is in heaven. Setting our eyes on Jesus doesn't mean we can simply stare out the window waiting for 2020 to finally end. Jesus didn't just endure the journey, and keeping our eyes on him reminds us of our calling to be disciples, following in His footsteps. Footsteps that walked through throngs of people and having compassion on them, walking along calling out to the lonely and the hurting, the sinners and the tax collectors, the widows and orphans.

Being forced to shut down in 2020, didn't mean we took an extended vacation, but it did challenge our whole sense of ministry and how we did ministry. I must confess, I, at least, am still not sure what our 'new' sense of ministry and how we do it is. But one thing is clear we continue to keep our eyes on Jesus and continue to run with perseverance the race that is set before us and we bid you to join us.



Keeping on in Jesus
Pastor Chris



Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

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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):

October-Fruit/Vegetable juice

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Contact number--308-641-7326

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program is asking for the following donation item(s):

Individual cereals

Miscellaneous Information

ECW--The fall meeting will take place October 8 at 12:30

Altar Guild--There have been some modifications made to standards that need to be maintained when setting up the altar. These standards will be in place for the foreseeable future. They are posted in the Sacristy. Please see Maryruth if you have any questions.

October altar duty--Sharon F & Deb Y

Annual Council

Due to Covid-19, the 153rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska will be Online via Zoom this year! October 17, 2020 from 10 AM - 3 PM. You won't even have to leave your house; just need an internet connection. If you are interested in being Holy Apostles representative or simply being a visitor to this year's Annual Council, please talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl.

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	www.holyapostlesmitchell.org	
Facebook	Holy Apostles Mitchell NE	

DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA - RESOURCE LIST

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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	Lachisha Baskin	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)

In-Person Worship to Resume on Sunday, September 13th

We are excited to announce that Bishop Barker has given us approval to resume in-person worship starting on September 13th. However, as we resume worship there are several guidelines (*listed below*) required by Bishop Barker that we are asked to follow.

- 1) Anyone known to be infectious or symptomatic, or who lives in a household with someone who is infectious or symptomatic, should refrain from attending public worship. Those who have underlying health conditions making them more susceptible to Covid-19 are also encouraged to refrain from attending public worship at this time. *Please note: for those in either of these categories, we will continue to livestream our worship service via Facebook Live.*
- 2) Every person must wear a mask at least upon entering and departing the church building.
- 3) Every person is asked to remain at least six feet away from anyone who is not in their household.
- 4) No live singing is permitted, which means there will be no singing of the liturgy or hymns at this time.
- 5) Objects may not be shared or distributed. This includes offering plates, bulletins and food and drink. This means that the offering plate will be placed in the narthex and/or back of the church for you to give your offering as you come to worship and bulletins will continue to be provided via email (and on our website) for you to print out before you come to worship. This also means that there will be no formal coffee and fellowship at this time.
- 6) During the passing of the peace, you are asked to maintain six-foot physical distance with anyone not in your household. A verbal greeting or wave of the hand is encouraged.
- 7) Communion will be in one-kind only, meaning that you will receive only the bread in the form of a wafer. The celebrants will be masked and will use a pair of forceps to distribute communion, so as to minimize contact between celebrant and parishioner.
- 8) Hand sanitizer must be readily available and the building disinfected in-between uses.
- 9) If Covid-19 cases increase in our church's community, in-person worship must be suspended until cases begin to decline.

As your pastors, we totally understand that all these guidelines may feel cumbersome and distracting from worship; it all feels cumbersome and strange to us too, but in order for us to resume worship at this time, these guidelines are what it will take. We hope to see many of you on Sept. 13th, but totally understand if you do not feel comfortable returning to worship at this time. If you have any questions, as we resume in-person worship, do not hesitate to contact us.

Pastors Sheryl and Chris

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

10/1	Aiden Meysenburg	10/12	Joslyn Kurtz
10/6	Weston Cannon	10/14	Reece Meysenburg
10/8	Steve Johnson	10/21	Sheryl Kester-Beyer
10/10	Corlette Allbaugh	10/29	Julie Lane
10/10	Kinsey Knaub	10/30	Joni Hotz
10/10	Laura Kurtz	10/30	Leonard Sakurada

Anniversaries

10/10 Matt & Alex Nation

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

October 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 ECW 12:30	9	10
11 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	12	13	14	15	16	17 Annual Council (Virtual)
18* 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service*	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service Father Kano Feast Day Celebration	26	27	28	29	30	31

*As third Sunday, October 18 will be the Pastors' Discretionary Fund offering date. Any cash in offering plate will go to this fund.

Please note that Sunday School is still suspended for the time being.