

The Messenger...November, 2022

*A publication of St. James on the Lake Episcopal Church
in Covenant with the Anglican Communion*

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LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

How quickly the days pass. We're only weeks away from beginning a new year on the Church calendar with the start of another Advent season. And, then shortly after that we will be celebrating the beginning of 2023. Who remembers Y2K? The world was supposed to come to an end when all our computers crashed and yet somehow we have been able to carry on.

With each New Year comes change and this coming year will certainly be no different as we experience a new change in leadership. Fr. Adams helped to give us some stability following Fr. Melton's departure. He also offered his leadership as you moved out of the fear caused by the pandemic and back toward normalcy. I have hopefully in the past year and a half continue what Fr. Adams began. Today you have returned in many ways to the days of yore when we were an active parish that was committed to our congregational worship and our outreach into the community.

While I questioned the validity of bringing in a new, young, recently graduated seminarian with only limited experience, I have been pleased to see that my early concerns have proven to be unfounded. While our deacon is, in fact, new, young, and recently graduated and ordain as a deacon, he has shown a great potential and a willingness and desire to offer the leadership that will be required in the days ahead if St. James is to return to its place in the community as a praying and caring people.

On December 7th, the bishop will place his hands on our deacon's head and later in the service introduce Fr. Webb to his new congregation. I will be watching from the sidelines offering my prayers and support; and I know that each of you will be doing the same thing.

JDM+

FROM THE WEBB SITE...

November is a strange month. It's not the most glamorous month on the calendar, but the weather is (usually) pleasant. It hosts one of the best holidays on the calendar (Thanksgiving.) Yet, November forces us to reckon with who runs the world.

This year the month starts with Election Day. The culmination of months (sometimes years) of people making their case for power. How they will make the world a better place, if only they are in control. Or more often, how their opponent will destroy the very fabric of society is they even get close to a seat in office. We are inundated with pleas for power. For a chance to take control. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November rolls around, and we cast our ballots, and we say yes to someone. We tell them that we trust them, and that for at least a few more years, they are in control. The losing team takes an evening, licks their wounds and then immediately begins campaigning for the next election cycle.

Two (usually two) weeks after that, we take a Sunday and acknowledge that no matter who we just elected, they're really not in control. The last Sunday before Advent is commonly called the Sunday of Christ the King. A day that we set aside to acknowledge that no matter who may be president or in congress, that Jesus is the one with real power. Presidents, prime ministers, kings and dictators are ultimately temporary. They are limited to their a few years over their little plot of land. The kingdom of Christ is universal. It defies space and time. In his kingdom, princes, kings and presidents all kneel before his throne.

Sometimes, as Christians, we can have an uneasy relationship with worldly power. There are some who refuse to participate in civic duties or engagements, for fear that the world will corrupt them or remove their focus from spiritual things. Others will say that they no longer must submit to authorities because they are only subject to Jesus. On the other hand, there are some who use the Gospel as an excuse to claim power for themselves. The feast of Christ the King forces us to wrestle with this tension. We are currently a part of this world, and subject to those in authority over us. However, Christ is King of all, and everyone will one day bow down before his throne.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP

We have just begun a new study, *Simply Jesus* by N.T. Wright, at 11:00 on Wednesday mornings. This is led by Deacon Webb and he would love to see some new faces at their weekly gathering.

T.E.A.C.H.

We have recently begun a new study based on Jesus' second coming. Each week a list with a few Bible readings and some questions will be sent out so that you can be prepared for our time of sharing. Everyone is encouraged to stay for a few minutes following coffee hour each week for a brief time of discussion and fellowship.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

Date	DOK	Greeter	Altar	Acolyte	Vestry
6 th	Sunny	Bob & Annette	Susan & Kitty	Carol	Marian
13 th	Willene	Jeff & Kitty	Barbara & Sunny	Kelley	Peggy
20 th	DeLois	Tina & James	Linda & Deanna	Sandy	Kelley
27 th	Marian	Terry & Susan	Kelley & Carol	Mike	Tina

MINISTRIES, cont.

Date	Lessons	Coffee	Chalice	Organ
6 th	Annette	Peggy & Ann	Tina	Bonnie
13 th	Ray	Gail & Deanna	Kelley	Linda
20 th	Claire	Susan & Kitty	Paul	Bonnie
27 th	Sunny	Annette & Sunny	Mike	Linda

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, you need to make sure you have a replacement and mark the change on the bulletin board schedule