



November 2020

The Holy Post

Mmmm, how I love Thanksgiving turkey! I'm really not much on turkey the rest of the year. My girls will tell you that. But mmm mmm for that once a year Thanksgiving turkey!!!

Every month I get mail asking me to help Indian children in Idaho... The Haitian children that we sponsor... The starving children of Africa... On TV the same things come into my home. They pull on our heart strings and make us feel guilty that we are not doing more. Yet, how much more can we really do? We can't save the whole world. This whole country can't save the whole world!

We are blessed beyond belief and often don't even realize it! It's nice to think of the world as a "Village" but a village doesn't have seven billion people in it. No matter how generous we are, there will always be poor. Even Jesus said that... There will always be those in crisis... There will always be sick and dying people. It's not something we can change, even in this pandemic of our own!

Jesus asks us to be Good Samaritans, to be spontaneous givers. When you see a need fill it. When a hand is needed, give it. When a wound is seen mend it... and do it with a happy heart. We can't be everywhere at once, but we can tend to the work of God that crosses our path. Answer the call to your heart. Fix what you can, where you can, how you can with the talents and resources God gave you. See the world as brothers and sisters... mothers and fathers... sons and daughters... If for no other time of the year, erase our borders, our prejudices and our grudges and be generous to those in need. That's part of what Thanksgiving is about... GIVING!

This Thanksgiving, while you're eating that delicious turkey, be thankful not only for what you have, when so many are in want, but be thankful for the fact that you are a Christian! May the joy of God be in your eyes and shine upon all whom you meet as you travel this world! And may you be blessed with the biggest turkey on the block... and gravy... and yams... and a big bowl of smashed tatas... and pumpkin pie... and whipped cream... lotza whip cream...

Mmm mmm mmm mmm mmm!

Phil



Roy Kierstead	9th
Evan Anderson	20th
Kay Dunn	20th
Dave Goodwin	26th



Too cold I guess

Happy Birthday Kathleen
Brodnax



We are looking to reopen in person

Children's Ministry in phases.

A mask (ages 2 and up) and social distancing practices are in place.

First phase: families are already welcome to attend worship 10:30-11:30 a.m. A Children's Moment will be led by Pastor Steve.

- Second phase: Children's Church for preschool through grade 3.
- Janice Gross and Linda Sullivan will be teachers for October
- We need additional teachers for a monthly rotation.
- Grades 4 – 6th grades by request with Pastor Steve
- Third phase: we need childcare workers for infants through toddlers during worship. Will you help?
- Fourth phase: to be determined.

For those who can't come in-person, Sunday School and Worship online content will still be provided through

lachristian.org

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In November, as a nation, we will elect leaders, honor veterans, and give give thanks. It may look a little different this year, but we will still do these things.

Each of these national events provide us with an opportunity to express our faith.

If you have not already voted, please do so. When we check the boxes on the ballot next to a candidate's name in the privacy of the voter's booth on election day, we are faced with a question. Will this person represent me if they are elected? And to answer that question you have to know who you are, and who they are. If you don't know who you are, take a close look in the "mirror" of the Bible and you'll not only see yourself, but you'll see whose you are as well. We usually try to determine if a candidate will represent us by looking at their stance on certain key issues that we use as a "litmus" test. After we check the box, and the votes are counted, we should begin praying for whoever wins. They may not best represent us, but since they will be making decisions that impact us, we should lift them up in prayer.

On Memorial Day, we honor those who died while in active service, and on Armed Forces Day we honor those currently serving; but on Veteran's Day we honor those who, at some point in their life, served the military. This holiday grew from the observance of Armistice Day, which celebrates the end of WWI. When we honor veterans we acknowledge that they chose to represent us. They trained and served, willing to sacrifice themselves for us if called on to do so. They deserve our prayers and gratitude.

On Thanksgiving Day, we recall all that God has done for us over the past year and thank Him. It has been a difficult year. There have been natural disasters, disease, and death. But there has also been new births, new jobs, new conversions, weddings, graduations, etc.... We have been blessed, and we have taken the opportunity to bless others. And as we reflect on the last year, we will clearly see how God has been providing for us each and every day. He deserves our thanks and praise.

But these are only 3 of 30 days. What shall we do on the other 27? We shall love the Lord our God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and we will love our neighbors as ourselves.. So, if anyone asks you what you are going to do today, you can tell them, confidently, "I'm going to lone on someone; how about you?"

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Doug

ARE YOU A VICTIM? (part 2) or AMERICAN GNOSTICISM

Although Gnosticism is not a word found in the Bible, you may have read commentators who interpret some passages in the New Testament to be corrections of gnostic thought. The Gnostics rejected the God of the Old Testament, they believed all material matter to be evil, thus they denied that Jesus (God) came in the physical form of a man, and the bodily resurrection of Jesus is a misunderstanding of His purpose. Jesus' actual mission was to reveal a secret knowledge (gnosis) that would enable a person to escape their confinement in the material world. This is brief and oversimplified explanation, but it is a start. There are various elaborate and fanciful explanations of how our world came to be and names of innumerable gods emanating from one universal but distant god.

Against the Protestant Gnostics by Philip Lee is a fascinating book to begin to understand the Gnostic thought that has persisted in Christianity. He suggests that "the one primary ingredient for the birth of Gnosticism is a particular mood. The mood is one of despair. The gnostic solution can be satisfying only to those who have no tangible or rational hope." Their search for knowledge is a search to escape a world in which they view themselves as victims.



It may be that the three "Great Untruths" (G. Lukianhoff and J. Haidt, The Coddling of the American Mind) will be followed by a fourth. Those who view any degree of discomfort as harm rather than an opportunity to be strengthened, who trust nothing above the promptings of their heart and view anyone who disagrees with them as evil and/or ignorant, the Gnostic of the past would seek escape. Those who find the world as it is today (reality) unworthy of enduring, and irredeemably so, do not seek escape but destruction.

That is the story of Cain. It is not an old story. It is the continuing story of humanity. It is our story if we ever become discontent with God and His provision for us (Adam and Eve) and do not take responsibility for our failures (Cain). Cain found himself alienated from the world and its creator. He refused to see that his suffering came not from outside of himself— the world and others, but within. In his despair he destroyed the good that judged him inadequate.

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves. . . See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." Hebrews 12:5, 6, 15.

Dennis

FAITH



Who's who in the Pews?

Bob is from Dallas, Texas and Sally from Bloomington, IN met at East Texas State University, Commerce, TX (now known as the Texas A&M). Sally was still in High School. Bob asked her to a Homecoming Dance and it was all history after that!! Bob went to the University of Houston for his Ph. D. They were married in 1967. Sally finished a BA in Elementary Education in 1970. Bob got his first job in Ann Arbor, MI. Their first son, Charles was born there in 1978, then Russell in 1981. They then moved back to Texas in 1981 where Blake was born. They came to Los Alamos in 1985 and he worked at LANL for 23 years, before retiring in 2008. They have 10 Grand Children. 7 of them here in Los Alamos.

They have been teaching Choreographed Ballroom Dance since 1975. They teach in Los Alamos 2 nights a week in Rayburn Hall. They travel extensively teaching and dancing. They are recognized the world over for some of their choreography. They teach beginners on Monday nights at 6:30 PM in Rayburn Hall. So, come out and join them for a lot of family, wholesome fun.



The Frame Game Who is this?



Last month was
Dennis Wilhoit

King
of

Kings

From the mouth's of Little Ones

"Kate, leave me alone, I'm trying to do yogurt (yoga)!"

-Charlotte, age 3

The Nomination Committee Responsibilities

It's the committee's job to prepare a slate of candidates for the positions of ELDERS, DEACONS and WORSHIP AREA COORDINATORS (MACs) using the following or similar steps:

They can receive congregational nominations for the various officers.

Current MACs interested in continuing their service for another year, shall inform the committee.

The committee shall review qualifications for Elders and Deacons from (1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9, before the first committee meeting.

All discussions within the committees, as to qualifications or other information that may be discussed about nominations shall be held in the strictest of confidences!

Committee Actions:

Create a list of nominations from the congregation or by individual committee members.

Review nominations to assure that Elders and Deacons are within their term limits: (Elders – maximum of (4) four consecutive years of service / Deacons – maximum of (3) three consecutive years of service.

Review all nominations for Biblical qualifications.

Elder nominations are given directly to the board of Elders for consideration.

Deacon nominations shall have at least a 5/7 approval of committee members.

MAC nominations shall, also have a 5/7 approval of committee members.

Members shall portion out the approved nominations and make contact with those candidates to ascertain their interest in serving and for permission from those candidates to place their name on the ballot for the congregational election.

The Final Committee Meeting:

The committee shall review their individual discussions with candidates and finalize the list of candidates for the ballot.

They will then publish the ballot for the congregation.

The committee will then be available to discuss (as far as confidentiality permits) the nomination process that determined the ballot.



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS AND REMEMBRANCES



Veteran's Day

WE'RE ON THE AIR

We have changed our online worship experience from a static page with pre-recorded elements to a livestream of our Sunday morning worship service. We hope that this will provide those at home a way to join those who attend on Sunday mornings. The link to the livestream will be on our website's ["Online Worship Experience" page \(www.lachristian.org\)](http://www.lachristian.org).



Our livestream is a "window" into our service. It is not a professional production, but it will bring you into our service until you are able to join us onsite. We are thankful to our volunteers who are providing this opportunity for you. The service is "live" so **the online recording of it will not be available until after the service has ended.**

Our new



The Hasselstrom Family

Faithful Servants

Doughnut Ministry





Children and Youth Ministries



Children and Youth Ministries of LACC

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Fire! Do You Fear God? Children's Moment, Sept 20...
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This Way, That Way, Jonah goes which way? Children's...
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The Church! August 30, 2020 Children's Moment
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Building Your House on the Rock? Children's Moment...
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Cloudy Head with a Chance of Prayer? Children's...
4 views · 1 month ago



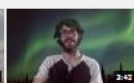
Pointing a Finger, Oh My! Children's Moment Aug 16...
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DONUT WORRY! Children's Moment August 9, 2020
12 views · 1 month ago



Storing Up Treasures in Heaven? Children's Moment...
7 views · 1 month ago



How do I talk to God? Children's Moment July 26...
15 views · 1 month ago



Bubble the Fish! Rules and God's Commandments...
16 views · 2 months ago



You are Salt and Light! Children's Moment...
14 views · 2 months ago



Happiness at the Amusement Park? Children's Moment...
11 views · 2 months ago



Ketchup with Obedience Children's Moment 6-21-2020
1 view · 2 months ago



Put on the Armor of God! Children's Moment 6-28-2020
8 views · 2 months ago



Spending Time Eating Cookies? Children's Moment 6-7-2020
8 views · 3 months ago



Imitating Jesus? Children's Moment 6-7-2020
22 views · 3 months ago



Closing Prayer Youth Worship May 31, 2020
17 views · 3 months ago



Strong Together! Children's Moment May 31, 2020
12 views · 3 months ago



Tommy Learns to make Wise Choices? Children's Moment...
1 view · 3 months ago



Doing the Great Commission? Children's Moment April 19...
No views · 3 months ago



Doubt & Producing Fruit? Children's Moment April 19...
No views · 3 months ago



Easter! Children's Moment April 12, 2020
1 view · 3 months ago



Palm Sunday? Children's Moment April 5 2020
No views · 3 months ago



Passover Sunday? Children's Moment March 29, 2020
No views · 3 months ago



Do What You Said You Were Going To Do? Children's Moment...
No views · 3 months ago



What Does Mom Really Want? Children's Moment...
No views · 3 months ago



4 Friends Work Together to Help? Children's Moment...
No views · 3 months ago



Squirt Gun Wisdom
21 views · 3 months ago



You're invited to come and help decorate our house of worship. **Sunday, December 6th** after the church service.

We have all the decorations.

We just need

You



Mary is a farm girl from Lockney, TX. Raised in a family of six by Christian parents who were school teachers. She is a graduate of Lubbock Christian University. She also graduated from the Adventures in Missions program at Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock. She and Dennis have been married 44 years and have served with Churches of Christ in IL, FL, KS, AZ and San Diego. She is Mom to two and Grammie to six.

She began piano lessons at five, has been in band, was in All-State Choir two years and part of several musical groups through the years including Meistersingers Chorus, Song in the Night, One Voice, and the Randy Comer Band.

"God has blessed me with a gift, and one of the places I feel most "at home" is when I'm sharing it with others. I pray I can glorify our Father and be an asset to the Worship Team."

Mary



GOD'S PANTRY

God's Pantry is alive and well. There are six buyer-families that are keeping the pantry stocked. Twice a year, each family has a month for which they do the shopping as needed to replace items that have been given away. Most of the food is dispensed by Doug, Steve and Gretchen. Families in need from all around northern New Mexico may stop by the church and request food.



Doug, Steve or Gretchen can give you the exact details. God's Pantry is funded by designated offerings from our congregation. Those members who wish to contribute to it can designate a portion of their offering if they wish by writing "God's Pantry" along with the amount they wish to contribute to it, on the memo line of their check.



Mayhem with the Mertzes

Pastor Doug was at an "ALL FAITH PICNIC" and was visiting with his other friends of the cloth. One was a Catholic Priest and the other was a Jewish Rabbi. Old friends that they were, they all began their usual banter.

"You know, this baked ham of Mrs' Halls is really delicious," The priest teased the rabbi.

Doug stepped back and thought, this is going to be good!

"You really ought to try it, said the priest, as he went on.

I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You just don't know what you're missing! You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and give it a try?"

Doug waited for the reply as the rabbi collected his thoughts.

"The rabbi finally looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

With that, Doug blew his apple pie completely across the table!

Will the Priest get married?
Will the rabbi attend?
Will Doug need medical care?
Look for the answers next month , in
Mayhem with the Mertzes

