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# Episcopal Church in Lincoln County Newsletter

To be a welcoming congregation, inclusive of everyone, inspired by the Holy Spirit and educated to live out our Christian faith.

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**NOVEMBER, 2018**

## We Are Thankful For:

- Although we miss them when they go home to their 'second' homes (obviously Lincoln County is first!), we are blessed by the presence of our members who can't be here year round and look forward to seeing all of you again!

- The midterm elections are over and so are political ads (for a while at least).



- It's not mandatory to dress up like a Pilgrim or a Native American on Thanksgiving.

- And we're thankful for our wonderful church and chapels, all the people within and without, and our dear clergy!

## RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow I leave for Diocesan Convention and for the consecration of Michael Hunn as Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Convention begins on Thursday morning and ends on Friday. Please, pray for wise decisions for convention as we elect our diocesan leadership and pass the 2019 diocesan budget. Saturday at 11:00 is the consecration of our new Bishop. The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church will be the chief consecrator.

Consecrations of Bishop are always impressive services and I look forward to participating in the service as a chalice bearer. Stan and Sandy Thomas will also be there to carry our banner in procession. Please, hold our new bishop in prayer as he and all of us in the diocese begin a new chapter together.

I hope you will all pay close attention and devote significant prayer to the financial condition of the Episcopal Church in Lincoln County. A letter from our treasurer is included in this newsletter. You should each also have a copy of the letter. If our financial situation does not improve in 2019, the parish will be facing some very difficult choices in the days ahead. I hope you will think seriously about what this parish church means to you and what you hope to see and have in the future.

Yours in Christ,

## OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Last month was quiet as compared to September and August ... but there were a couple of events and we have photos to prove it!

Early in the month, we had the Community Supper, which was not as well attended as usual, but the weather turned cold so that might have been a factor. Armando was the primary cook for the supper and we greatly appreciate his efforts as well as all the volunteers!

At a recent service, Danny Flores joined with Marilyn to sing a duet for the prelude prior to the 10:30 Holy Mount service. It was beautiful. Thanks to the both of you!



Our Fall Rummage Sale was held October 27, 2018 and shortly before that, there was a small gathering for the Blessing of the Cull's new motorhome. Here are photos from both events.



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## NOVEMBER COMMUNITY SUPPER

This won't be a surprise, but turkey with all the trimmings is on the menu for the November

Community Supper. The date is Monday, 11/12<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally, this supper is well attended so need lots of volunteers. Our cooks will be Bettye, John, and Niki ... muchas gracias! St. Anne's Guild members are the official hosts for this supper.

## WANT TO APPRENTICE?

Also not a surprise, but we can use more cooks for our community suppers! It can be intimidating to cook for so many people even if you enjoy cooking at home. Also, it's too much to ask the same people to do most of the cooking ... they get tired. We're grateful to Armando and the Lopez's for cooking but more cooks would be helpful. For this reason, Bettye along with John and Niki Harast, will happily train anyone interested in all the workings of our kitchen.

## ARE YOU A FOOD HANDLER?

It will be helpful to have more people obtain their Food Handler's certificate when volunteering at a community supper. You can do this online at [NMfoodhandlers.com](http://NMfoodhandlers.com). Check it out! When you've completed the course, bring the certificate to the office please.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL!

In case you didn't know this, Diane French & Alan Miner are our wonderful Sunday School teachers. Here is a photo of three of our favorite little girls with something they made. Will try to get a photo of the little boys who attend for December!



That's Grampa with them!

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Annual UTO Offering

The United Thank Offering is collected every year by our national church with the money going to grants within the United States and throughout the world. In 2017, \$1,283,216.21 was collected. Of that \$25,438.04 went to 2018 Young Adult and Seminarian Scholarship Grants. The remainder was awarded to a multitude of grant requests. Since the UTO began in 1889, a total of 5,257 grants have been awarded ... a total of \$137,094,170.52!!!! Google UTO Grants to find out specifics about the grants given out this year.

### **UTO Gratitude Challenge**

Don't know if this is a new aspect of UTO or not, but there is a UTO Gratitude Challenge for the month of November ... to encourage us to realize all our blessings in life. Every day of the month has a different challenge. For example, 11/1 asks that you remember and honor a saint in your life; 11/2 tells you to write a journal page that starts, "I am grateful today for ...", and 11/3 asks you to think about "How a penny made me feel like a millionaire." Again, for details, Google UTO Gratitude Challenge ... there's a calendar plus many pages of detailed explanations. If you can't Google, ask Mary Aigner who can print off a copy for you.

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### **DO VOTE!**

Just a reminder to do your civic duty and vote for the candidates of your choice.

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### **OUR HEALING SERVICE**

This special service is held the First Wednesday of each month at 5:30 at Holy Mount. All of us, at different times in our lives, need the spiritual support and blessings received during the healing service. Obviously not the only time we pray for each other or that the priest can give you a special prayer and blessing, but the service itself is meaningful.

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### **FOYER GROUPS**

The Holy Mount Foyer Groups started up in September ... these are social get-togethers over dinner (at a home or restaurant) to help us get to know members of our church family even better. There are four groups and it's not too late to join! Contact Bettye McGinness for information about the Foyer Groups at 575 937 8583 (or email).

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### **OUR NEW BISHOP!**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Diocese will consecrate our new Bishop, Michael Hunn. Our own, Sal Lopez, will be an acolyte during the service. Carrying our new quilted banner and sign for ECLC will be Sandy and Stan Thomas. Attending the service will be our priest, Judy, your wardens, Gary and Mary, and delegates, Bettye and John. We look forward to the day Bishop Michael comes to Lincoln County for his first visit!

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### **PLEDGES**

During October, you should have received a letter from our Treasurer, Doug Conley, and your pledge card for 2019. Although of course, it's not mandatory, it is helpful in planning and budgeting to have an idea of how much money will be coming. So, if you haven't gotten around to it, we urge you to prayerfully consider pledging and mailing your card to ECLC. Thank you!

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### **what else is happening?**

All Saint's Sunday is November 4<sup>th</sup> and there will be a baptism at the 10:30 Holy Mount service.

The Advent season will be here soon ... in 2017, we celebrated the season with a **Creche Display and Open House** that was open to the public on Saturday and for viewing by the Holy Mount congregation on Sunday. It was a success and will be held again on December 15-16.

This year, we will invite the public to bring their nativity scenes to also share with us. There were a couple of people who attended last year that were interested in doing this. Contact the office for more information (Bettye will call you back).

Donations of cookies will also be needed.

More details to follow in December!

Judy will be on vacation November 5-17. We hope she and Seth have a wonderful and relaxing time!

Once again, we will have the **Christmas Project**, which is organized and run by the Lopez Family. School counselors provide us with the

names of children and their families. Watch for details on this too!

Don't forget to talk to Fr. Don if interested in joining in a trip to Israel in February.

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## MARTHA'S MEALS

This ministry provides frozen dinners for those who are ill or in need. If you would like to cook (at home) and freeze meals to keep at church for those in need ... it would be greatly appreciated.

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## LETTER FROM OUR TREASURER

In case you missed it, below is a letter that our Treasurer recently sent out to all the members along with Pledge Cards. Non-members can pledge too if interested ... just FYI!

Dear Parishioner,

As a member of this church for nearly 40 years and being associated, in one form or another for an additional 15 years, in the last 4 or 5 years, I have seen more applications for assistance from the Rector's Discretionary Fund, more outreach to the needy through Joseph's Workshop, more food to the hungry through the community suppers, more benefits throughout the community from St. Anne's Guild, more families served by Sal's annual Christmas Works and more service from the Brotherhood of St. Andrew than in the previous 30 years combined. As a general observation, I see greater camaraderie amongst the parishioners and greater efforts by the parishioners to do the REAL work of the church than ever before. Though these tasks are not easy to finance (both in money AND in time) the need is obvious and the reward is often instant in heartwarming feeling as our fellow man thanks us for our efforts. (This is a direct quote from last year's letter and is ever more true this year!)

**In this letter, I want to give you a quick summary of the ECLC's financial condition and provide a 2019 pledge card and the status of your pledge as of the end of Sept. 2018.**

As most of you know, the church has, for the past four or five years, had a deficit budget and unfortunately, we have met each and every one of them. We have gone down significantly each of these years. A smart person would logically ask (How do you continue routine operations?", and the answer is simple. The largesse of a single person, Dr. Fenimore, whom many of you know, left us 50% of his estate. The good news is that we are living and have lived on his generosity, which covers the shortfall. This gift will only last a few more years. Of course, there may be changes which might reduce the

deficit (next year's budget not yet final, currently projects a deficit of about 20,000 dollars), and there could be changes that will increase the deficit. At any rate, when that gift is gone, we may be forced to change, dramatically, the way we operate, and that means the church many of us have called home for years, will feel very different. So I ask you to contemplate and pray about your giving, not only for the remainder of this year, but what you can give for 2019, and as Dr. Fenimore did, perhaps you can provide a gift to ECLC, that extends several years into the future.

In this envelope is a pledge card. This is not a legally binding contract between you and the church, but rather a small budgeting aid, allowing the church **and me** to understand how much funding we might expect in the coming year. Thankfully, many of those who pledge, far exceed, over the course of the year, the pledge amount. It is important to note that many people prefer not to pledge and they support around 50% of the budget. Pledging is a personal decision and aids slightly in planning for coming year, however, banks do not allow me to deposit pledge cards, the companies that provide goods and services to us PNM, Zia and TDS etc. will not take pledge cards a payment, so a pledge card is not particularly important to the operation of the church. What is important is OUR financial support of OUR Church. Regardless, ours, yours and my ministries, cannot continue without adequate funding and as mentioned in the second paragraph, will not continue.

Thanks again for sticking with me to the end.

Your Treasurer, Doug Conley  
[douglonley@yahoo.com](mailto:douglonley@yahoo.com) 575-937-1010

JOIN THE CHOIR ... WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

LIKE TO SING?

Other than all of this, we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

