Pastor’s Column for August 16, 2018 by Pastor Jacob Sherry St. John Palmer

 Politics can get ugly. In college my wife Jess I were co-hosts of the wildly popular Jake and Jess Show on WCUW 101.3 FM Channel 9……the talon! One of our favorite segments during an election year was to play political ads and point out just how ugly they got in terms of criticizing the other candidate. We always pointed out the use of a particular style of voice that seemed to be used in those ads to invoke anger, disappointment or resentment for what the other candidate had done or stands for.

 It seems the storm clouds of ugliness are moving when it comes to finding out the results of the primary election between Kris Kobach and Jeff Colyer. By the time you read this it may have all been decided and I hope it was decided peacefully and with a lot of trust in the political process that has been set up. As a pastor I don’t make it a habit to get involved in political matters, so I don’t write in a formal endorsement of either candidate or even a political party. I just ask that we all listen to the words of this past week’s Epistle lesson from Ephesians chapter 4.

 Ephesians 4:31-32, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” When it comes to how we as citizens, as Christians, as members of society and just as fellow people interact with each other this is a high standard to shoot for. This doesn’t mean that we are perfect, we are far from it, and our imperfections is what we lay at the foot of the cross and God’s altar on Sunday mornings, asking for forgiveness. What Paul is describing in this letter is the new life that we have in Jesus Christ who has saved us from sin, death, and the power of the devil by dying on the cross in our place. How could we still be bitter when we have received such an amazing gift? How can we not show love to others when such love has been shown to us?

 So whatever happens in politics in the coming months, and even with the results of the primary elections, I pray that things don’t get ugly. Let’s all leave the bitterness behind and be kind to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.