

August

First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA

2016

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

God's Direction

Earlier today I was scrolling through my Facebook feed. What I saw was amazing. There were articles praising the Republicans and the Republican nominee. There were just as many articles condemning Trump as the next coming of the apocalypse. Of course, I also saw myriad posts on the Democrats and the Democratic nominee. These covered the gamut of praise and demonization. Sprinkled into this cacophony of politic mess were the various comments on the horror of the political choices this election season including a real estate agent willing to help you sell your house and move to Canada regardless of which way the election turns out. As I scrolled through this seemingly endless line of vitriol and bile, I found my stomach getting queasy, I found my body desiring the "good old days" when all I saw were friends' dinner choices and/or their children doing (often) foolish things. I had no choice but to just close my web browser and step away.

What do we do when the world around us seems to be closing in? What do we do when the doom, despair, fear, and anxiety of what we see and hear overwhelms our senses—even causing nausea? How do we respond to the vitriol and bile that washes over us and too often through us?

We are in a season of the Church year called Ordinary Time. We mark it by counting the weeks after Pentecost. This becomes important because as we walk through Ordinary Time, we find ourselves rooted to the wondrous events of Pentecost as we work through what it means to follow Christ led by the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, we see the Holy Spirit rush over and amongst the first disciples as wind, as fire, as a tidal wave of godly power—a wave to pushes us into action, into service and witness and compassion and empathy and love for others. But before that wave overwhelmed them, we look carefully at the first disciples and what they were doing. They were together praying. They were together waiting. They were together.

It is important to take time to simply stop, to pray, and in prayer to listen to God. It is important remember and reflect upon the promises of God—the Kingdom of God has come near; this is good news! And it is important that we do this as a community. As we pray, we trust in Jesus' words, "The Father will give you another Advocate . . . the Spirit of truth." (John 14:16-17) As we take time removing the cacophony of bile and vitriol from our sight, we trust that God is with us and directing us forward. And with the hand of God, experienced in the rush of wind by the Holy Spirit, we step forward once again in our world.

Remember, God's kingdom is here, surrounding us. We see it most clearly not when we indulge in the finger-pointing, name-calling, blame-gaming elements that course through social media and elsewhere, but when we engage others in dialogue with compassion and empathy. When we are enveloped in our fear of the world around us we are blinded to presence of God's Kingdom. Yet, when we release that fear, trusting in God, and see places of distress as opportunities to show the love of God, then we see as clearly as ever is possible the future into which God is calling.

Trusting in God's direction,
Pastor Zach

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship
10:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

9:00-Noon

or by appointment

First Sunday Potlucks at First Lutheran are on hold For the summer months.

Our summer schedules are so busy we will put the First Sunday Potlucks on hold till October. We will still need hosts for the potlucks in October thru December, so sign up in the fellowship hall.

In the meantime, join us at the end of August for the block party!

Then come back to the potluck this fall, starting in October. Have a great summer. See you soon, at church!

Please remember, if you are having trouble hearing: Listening devices are available. Please ask an usher.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

The Food Pantry would like us to emphasize a specific item each month. Remember, you may bring any item you wish, but spreading this among the contributing congregations keeps a steady supply of their most basic needs coming each month. **For the month of August, personal care items – soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, lotions, etc. have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Aug. 7th—

Aug. 14th— Ayers

Aug. 21st—

Aug. 28th—Block Party

Downtown Worship

Fellowship

Aug. 7th—

Aug. 14th— Candy, Pat,

Carolyn, Dotty

Aug. 21st— Thrivent

Aug. 28th—Block Party

Downtown Worship

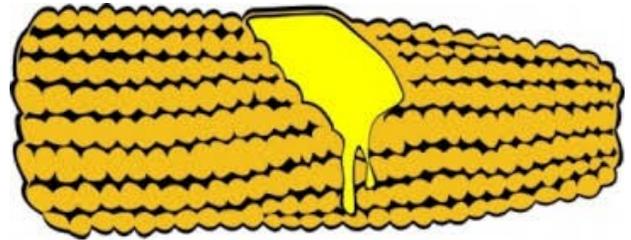
Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

*Happy
Birthday*

8/2 Colin Cummins
Terri Hayden
8/5 Judy Floss
8/6 Kathy Wilken
8/7 Blake Geilenfeldt
Duane Jolivette
Deb Rose
8/9 Thomas Hodnett
8/10 Alex Breuer
8/11 Aaron Monroe
Rachel Monroe
8/12 Katelyn Jolivette
8/17 Duane Quanbeck

8/19 Arlene Dobesh
Carey Jordan
8/21 Elizabeth McVey
8/22 Deb Lammey
8/23 Leah Johnson
8/26 Cami Wright
8/27 Steven Putz
8/28 Barb Birkenholtz
Marilyn Gelinas
Candy Thompson
8/29 Elizabeth Coyle
8/30 Marcelina Marvelli

Thank you to everyone who helped
make the Corn Boil such
a great success!



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Jasper County Food Pantry as part of our July Choices in Mission. The total amount given was \$1050, which was matched from our Mission fund for a total of \$2100. Don't forget that our local Thrivent chapter was also matching the first \$1294 given. So we know the local Jasper County Food Pantries will get at least \$3394!

Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that helped with our Wednesday Night Community Dinner this past month! Our next dinners are on **August 24th and August 31st at the McCann Center**. Please join us again to continue this very important community service. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.



SCHOOL DAYS

As summer begins to wane and the fall season approaches, school again opens its doors for the year. Students and teachers are getting ready for another exciting year. School supplies are an important part of school success. A variety of school supplies are needed each year and often are difficult for some to provide. I would like to encourage our congregation to help by donating school supplies to be used by our students and teachers to help in the success of the year.

Suggestions for school supplies are taken from the school supply list and will be present with a box for donations in the narthex. Cash donations are also accepted.

Thanks for your help.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM

Needed School Supplies:

#2 Pencils

Pens

Box of 24 Crayons

Glue sticks

Erasers

Colored Pencils

Deodorant

Soap

Spiral Notebooks

Regular Pocket Folders

Wide Lined Paper

Whiteboard Markers

Small Post-It Notes

Ear Buds

Shampoo

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the sun and rain that makes our crops and gardens grow. Remind us to share if we have too much, with our neighbors or the Salvation Army. Help keep us vigilant about safety during our wild last days of summer, fun days at the fair and as so many head back to school. We look forward with great anticipation to the downtown churches community block party worship at the end of the month. Remind us in these days before our national election that what unites us is so much more than what divides us. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

Sunday, August 28

Worship Downtown



Congregational United Church of Christ
First Christian Church
First Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Salvation Army
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
United Presbyterian Church

& Block Party

10:00am worship

block party and potluck to follow

on North Third Avenue East
between E 2nd St. N & E 3rd St. N

First Lutheran is asked to bring side dishes to the potluck.

If you attended our downtown community worship last year, you know we had so much fun we wanted to do it again. So here we are and this year we have three more churches participating! We will worship together outside on North 3rd Avenue East, beginning at 10 AM with a joint choir and celebration of Holy Communion. This year's special offering will support the Jasper County Elderly Nutrition Program.

Afterwards, at approximately 11 AM, there will be a community lunch in the parking lot of First United Methodist Church with each church bringing a course of the meal to share with others. First Lutheran is asked to bring side dishes. Table service will be provided.

Around noon we will gather for activities with an Olympic theme and games hosted by all the different churches (see flier on next page). First Lutheran's Olympic village will be open before and after the games. Bring your lawn chair, sun protection and community spirit. We will meet in the First United Methodist Fellowship Hall if there is inclement weather.



Run in such a way as to get the prize...
Do it to get a crown that will last forever.
1 Corinthians 9:24, 25

Opening Ceremony (At Flatbed Stage)
Olympic Teams Assembled!
Olympic Torches for Everyone!
Faster Pastor Race!

Let the Games Begin!
(Church Parking Lots)

- 1 Silly Shot Put (First Presbyterian)
- 2 Jolly Javelin (First United Methodist)
- 3 Dizzy Discus (First Lutheran)
- 4 Hilarious Hula (Congregational UCC)
- 5 Field Hockey Folly (Salvation Army)
- 6 Balloon Volley (St. Stephen's Episcopal)
- 7 100-Meter Dash (United Presbyterian)
- 8 Cowpie the Cleric (First Christian Church)

**Visit the
Olympic Village!**
(Open before & after
games at First Lutheran
Church parking lot).
Bounce House!
Balloon Artist!
Chalk Art!

Closing Ceremony
(At Flatbed Stage)
Medals Awarded!
Fun You Won't Want to Miss!

**FUN BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH—
LISTEN FOR THE OLYMPIC MUSIC!**

Sunday, August 28, 2016



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Flier courtesy of
First United Methodist Church

August 2016

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 Bible Study	2	3 6:00 Summer Book Study	4	5	6 5:30 Worship	
7 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	8 5:00 Bible Study 6:00 Property 7:00 Hannah	9	10 5:30 Salad Supper Community dinner 6:00 Summer Book Study	11 1:30 Good Cheer	12	13 5:30 Worship	
14 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	15 5:00 Bible Study	16 6:00 Council	17 9:00 Lois 1:00 Martha 6:00 Summer Book Study	18 7:00 Eunice	19	20 5:30 Worship	
21 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	22 5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due	23	24	25	26	27	
28 Downtown Block Party 10:00 Worship	29 5:00 Bible Study	30 9am Dorcas	31				

August Serving Schedule

Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
August 6th						
August 7th	Thomas Hodnett, Blake Baumgartner	Katie Cantu	Pat & Steve Putz	Bethany baumgartner	Dave Troen, Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Duane Quanbeck
August 13th						
August 14th	Liz Coyle, Anna Coyle	Pat Foote, Candy Thompson		Marie Quanbeck	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	Matt Coyle
August 20th		Pat Foote				
August 21st	Brock Jordan, Lane Rose	Deb Rose		Evelyn George	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	Rex Thompson
August 28th	Block Party Worship					

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