



**First Lutheran Church,  
Newton IA**

**2017**

**First Epistle**

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From the Pastor...

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’” Isaiah 6:8

As I write this, many hands are preparing for the Annual Corn Boil. It takes many willing folks to make a success of a project that is this ambitious! Hours of planning, and cooking, and serving, and cleaning are required to make it happen. No one person can do it by themselves.

I’m guessing that just about every area of our mission and ministry in this place requires the time and talents of more than just one person. We depend on one another. We need one another. God has brought us together as a family so that we might accomplish greater things together than we could ever hope to accomplish alone.

So, here’s the deal. God has an incredible future planned for First Lutheran. As we move into that bold new future together, let us envision how we might work together to reach new and exciting dreams. Of course, to do that, we’re going to need your help. We need your hands and your heart. We need your voice and your willingness to serve. And we need everyone.

So... find your niche. Find your passion. Find your place in the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church. And if you can’t find a place... ask. Ask what needs to be done. Ask where the greatest need might be. Ask how you can make a difference. And when the call comes from God... jump up and shout, “Here am I, Lord. Send me!”

Thanks for your partnership in this important ministry!

Living in God’s Amazing Grace!  
Pastor Mark

**Sunday Worship  
9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday Fellowship  
10:30 a.m.**

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday  
1:00—5:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### First Sunday Potluck on hold over the summer!

Due to busy summer schedules we will take a break from our gatherings in July and August and resume with the school year in October. There will be the Downtown Worship and Rally Day on August 27th with our neighbors.

Enjoy your summer and we will see you in 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

August 6— Dobesh  
August 13— Sandra Ayers  
August 20—  
August 27—

### Fellowship

August 6— Dobesh  
August 13—  
August 20—  
August 27—

**Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.**



8/2	Teri Hayden	8/21	Elizabeth McVey
8/6	Kathy Wilken	8/22	Deb Lammey
8/7	Blake Geilenfeldt	8/23	Leah Cupples
	Deb Rose	8/26	Cami Wright
8/9	Thomas Hodnett	8/27	Steven Putz
8/10	Alexander Breuer	8/28	Barb Birkenholtz
8/11	Aaron Monroe		Marilyn Gelinas
	Rachel Monroe		Candy Thompson
8/17	Duane Quanbeck		Elizabeth Coyle
8/19	Arlene Dobesh	8/30	Marcelina Marvelli
	Carey Jordan		

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### Special Thanks to:

Duane Quanbeck for repairing threshold and locks on double doors on south west side of church

Steve Putz carpet cleaning and waxing kitchen floor

Al Orsund , Dennis Porter, and Gary Johnson for trimming hedge and other areas.

Ramona Cooper taking care of overseeing and weeding the area south of church and west of carport.

Candy Thompson and Pat Foote for parking lot flower gardens.

Mary Ann Iske for donating a round Monroe table already put in use.

Barb and Al Orsund for the church pew donation for extra seating in the narthex.

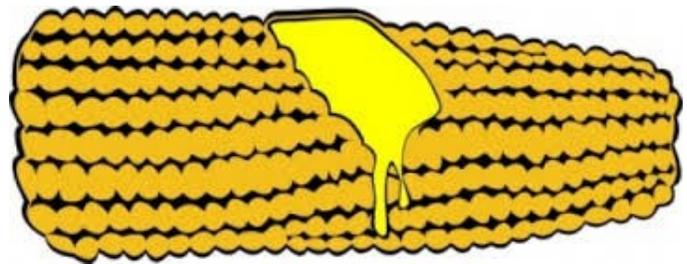
The Property Committee will have more opportunities to help with after our August Meeting!

Thanks, PropertyCommittee Chairman. Stan Kirchhoff

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### The Corn Boil was awesome!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a great success!



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### Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

**THANK YOU** to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners! Wednesday Night Community Dinners will take a break over the summer and resume back at the Methodist Church on the last Wednesday in August. **Please keep the hungry in your prayers, donate to the food pantry and drop off fresh garden produce at the Salvation Army.**

## Stewardship is Hip

Over the past couple of months we have been talking about the five T's of stewardship, time, talent, treasure, tissue, and trees. This month the focus is on trees, or in other words the environment. I recently read an interesting article on the environment Iowa website. It focuses on the impact that bees have on plants and the effect that seeds treated with pesticides can have on them. I have included the article below.

### Lets give bees a chance

In recent years, beekeepers report they're losing on average 30% of all honeybee colonies each winter — twice the loss considered economically tolerable.



Image:  
Qypchak/ Wikimedia Creative Commons

We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows, and the list goes on.



Image: Flickr User: Fried Dough - Creative Commons

### 6,000 times more toxic than DDT

Scientists point to several causes behind the problem, including global warming, habitat loss, parasites and a class of bee-killing insecticides known as neonicotinoids (or neonics).

When seeds are treated with neonics, the chemicals work their way into the pollen and nectar of the plants — which, of course, is bad news for bees and other pollinators. Worse, for the bees and for us, neonics are about 6,000 times more toxic to bees than DDT.

Just one example: After a nearby farm planted corn seeds coated with neonics in 2013, a farmer named Dave Schuit lost 37 million of his bees. "Once the corn started to get planted our bees died by the millions," said Schuit.



Image: Waugsberg / Wikimedia Creative Commons

### We're up against big agrichemical companies

Given the consequences for our farms and our food, you'd think we'd be doing all we can to protect bees and other pollinators from threats like neonics.

*Continued on next page*

## All Are Welcome *continued*

Instead, big agrichemical companies like Dow Chemical, Bayer and Syngenta are fighting to prevent bans. And Syngenta has asked federal regulators for permission to use even larger quantities of these pesticides — as much as 400 times more than currently allowed.

Some governments aren't letting the big chemical companies push them around. Alarmed by the role these chemicals are playing in bee colony collapse disorder, the European Union has banned several of them; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has committed to phasing them out on the public lands they manage; and Seattle, Minnesota and Oregon have all agreed to take some form of action against neonics.

Some companies are taking action as well. Home Depot and BJ's Wholesale Club have taken steps to limit plants treated with neonics, label the plants or both. More than 100 businesses sent a letter to the White House urging the Obama administration to do more to protect bees and other pollinators against toxic pesticides. And we'll continue to urge other retailers to phase out neonics and do more to warn gardeners and other customers.

In order to restore bee populations to health, however, we need the EPA to step up and lead.



Image: Justin Leonard / Flickr User-Creative Commons

Together, we can give bees a chance

Right now, we're letting big agrichemical companies use more of the chemicals that are known to kill bees just as we're in the midst of an unsustainable die-off in bee populations. That has to change. Now.

Join us in calling on the EPA to declare a nationwide moratorium on the use of bee-killing neonics.

<http://www.environmentiowa.org/programs/iae/no-bees-no-food>

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## The Shack

Faith Formations is hosting an open showing of this summer's book club pick 'The Shack' by Wm. Paul Young, on Wednesday, August 16th. We will start with snacks and social time at 6:30 and get the movie started by 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to come watch with us, the movie will be shown in the sanctuary, so we have lots of room for you to come join us.



## **Worship Downtown Sunday, August 27th, 10:00 a.m.**

Again this year, on the last Sunday in August, we will join together in worship and fellowship with five neighboring downtown congregations for our Third Annual Worship Downtown. Worship will begin at 10:00am and take place on N 3rd Ave E facing E 2nd St N (the street between our building and First Presbyterian Church). Refreshments will be served in the parking lot of First United Methodist Church following the service. Bring a lawn chair to sit on and don't forget your sunscreen! We are looking for more canopies to provide some shade for the service and refreshment time; please contact the office if you have one to contribute.

Once again, members and friends of the participating congregations are invited and encouraged to join together to sing as a choir during the service. Details regarding rehearsals will be shared as this information becomes available. The offerings received will again be donated to Jasper County Elderly Nutrition (please make checks payable to "Jasper County Elderly Nutrition"). If you would like your offering to go to our congregation, please make your check out to First Lutheran or make sure First Lutheran is on your offering envelope. Any undesignated funds will be given to Jasper County Elderly Nutrition.

Cake will be provided for all to enjoy during refreshment time, and each congregation is being asked to recruit one volunteer (or a couple) to provide additional refreshments (veggies, fruit, cheese and crackers, etc.). Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering. Drinks will be provided by First United Methodist, and The Salvation Army will provide all of the paper goods and plastic ware.

Please spread the word as all are welcome to attend. And, of course, mark your calendars and plan to join us in this time of worship and fellowship with our siblings in faith!

Information provided by Reverend Jessica Petersen

### **Prayer Corner**

We pray for our families, friends and church family. August is when we focus on the last blast of summer. We focus on the heat, the fair, the food on a stick and the last minute fun we can have before a new academic year and the fall routines kick in. Let's add the Worship Downtown to our calendars. Let's remember the Salvation Army with our over abundant garden produce. Let's remember our neighbors and buy a couple extra school supplies for one of the supply drives, this helps support our teachers too. Let us encourage each other and be united in prayer for one another. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

## Southeast Iowa Synod News

### Hunger Grants now available

Applications are now being accepted from congregations, ecumenical groups and organizations on the territory of the synod that are engaged in or seek to be engaged in efforts to feed hungry people. Grants range from \$100 to \$1,000 and applications will be accepted through November 1, 2017, or until all funds have been distributed.



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### LSC 2017 Middle School Lock-in

The Middle School Lock-in (open to students in your middle school ministry and the grades you consider to be middle school.) will be held October 13-14, 2017.

This event is sponsored by the partnership of the Lutheran Student Center at UNI in Cedar Falls and the Northeastern Iowa Synod (ELCA). College students of UNI are there to help staff the event. You or other adults are welcome to accompany your youth at the lock-in free of charge.



This year we will be welcoming the amazing Rachel Kurtz as a special guest! She will be providing a short concert at the start of the event and will be sharing her musical gifts with us in worship at midnight.

The registration deadline is September 29th. This year, each student will receive a t-shirt if registered by then.

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### 2017 Tri-Synodical Conference

"The Reformation: What's at Stake? Then and Now"

#### Speakers:

- Bishop Guy Erwin
- Anna Madson
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Follow along using the hashtag: #3synodIA17

The 2017 Tri-Synodical Conference focusing on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be held September 24-September 26 at the Sheraton-West Des Moines.

**For more information on any of these events, visit: <http://seiasynod.org/>**

## August LSI Update

### Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! But imagine being a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. This time of year can be extremely stressful. They are afraid they won't be able to concentrate or fit in at their school. They worry about the transition adjusting to a new classroom routine.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their communities? Our therapists can work one-on-one with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team is there to collaborate with families in their home and develop skills like anger management and decision-making.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift and support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org).

### Happier, healthier families

For years, Bia struggled with her daughter's behaviors. McKenna, 8, lashed out against authority, and tempers regularly flared at home.

"It took a little more time to work with her on anything," Bia said.

Bia couldn't find a way to help gain control of her child, and she became more and more frustrated. That's when her DHS social worker recommended LSI's Families Together program.

Through the program, Bia regularly meets with her Families Together worker, Gaylene. Together, they are working on what Bia calls a "three-step technique."

"Whenever a possible argument comes along, I start by telling McKenna to go take a break and reset herself. Then I can go calm down and eventually, we can talk it out," Bia says. "It's teaching both of us. My main goal right now is to learn how to better handle McKenna and better handle myself."

Bia is also practicing the technique with her younger daughter, Brynn, which she says is "working perfectly." It's drastically improving the way her family communicates, and Bia says she has recommended Families Together to any friends looking for guidance.

"I love the program," she says. "I love how it works and I know if I have questions, they can give me advice on how to go about things."



# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>6:30 Property</i>	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	7 5:00 Bible Study	8	9	10 Good Cheer 6:00 Council	11	12
13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	14 5:00 Bible Study 7:00 Hannah	15	16 1:00 Martha 6:30 'The Shack'	17	18	19
20 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	21 5:00 Bible Study <b>Newsletter articles due</b>	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Downtown Community Worship</i> 10:00	28 5:00 Bible Study	29 9:00 Dorcas	30	31		

## August Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
August 6th	Mae and Anna VanDam	Pat Foote	Pat & Steve Putz	Marie Quanbeck	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Duane Quanbeck
August 13th	Leo Friedman	David Goos		Marlys Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	Matt Coyle
August 20th	Blake Baumgartner	Judy Monroe		Dirk Amundsen	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	David Goos
Downtown Worship August 27th	Thomas Hodnett	Stan Kirchhoff			Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	

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Come join us on August 16th  
For a free showing of 'The Shack'  
Social time at 6:30, movie starts at 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget to come out for Downtown Community Worship  
on August 27th at 10am!

