

AUGUST

First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA
2015

First Epistle

Trustworthy God,

From the Pastor...

You are the creator of the cosmos. Everything I see and touch and smell and taste and hear comes from you. And as you created, you named all things good. Smiling, I find great comfort in your goodness. You are the shepherd who has constantly sought after your beloved sheep, drawing us to you, showing us the value you have for us. My heart finds peace when I think of you entering into this vast wilderness to find me, to bring me back to the fold. You are endless well of living water which hydrates and nourishes all life. You bring water to the desert and you quench the thirst of those who are parched. You are the storehouse of all that is good, and joyfully pour out your abundance upon all who hear your voice. You are the air we breathe. As I fill my lungs with your life-giving presence, as I feel you filling me completely I experience the renewed life you promise, I am refreshed and re-centered upon your greatness.

Thank you for the gifts you give. Thank you for the community in which I live. Thank you for the church that welcomes me. Thank you for the people of First Lutheran Church. Thank you for never leaving. Thank you for being the foundation. Thank you for leading and guiding us. Thank you for providing a new vision of how we can follow you.

Yet in our fellowship there is pain and hurt. Within our community are broken families—estrangements between mothers and sons, fractures between spouses, sibling rivalry that has torn and scarred. Within our community there is sadness and fear—children watching as their parents waste away, parents helplessly watching their children struggle with school and learning. There are holes deep in the hearts of some who desperately want(ed) children but can't have them. There are feelings of isolation that simply are not understood by those around them. Within our community are people who suffer—suffer from chronic pain, from illness, from disease both physical and mental. Within our community there are people who are hungry—uncertain where their next meal will come from, some of whom are too embarrassed to even ask. Within our community there are people who constantly hide behind masks, people who are convinced they would be shunned if they showed their true selves to the community, people who feel so much pressure to be what others expect them to be wondering when it will truly overwhelm them. Within our community there are people who doubt, who are uncertain whether you are even here. Within our fellowship there is tremendous pain and hurt and uncertainty....

Open your flood gates and wash us clean, O Lord. Help us to find the strength to ask for help. Help us to open our eyes to the struggles and pain within our fellowship. Help us to listen without judgment to the stories carefully and gingerly shared with us. Help us to be a supporting community recognizing that even with our own hurts and pains and uncertainties, you are working through us for the sake of others. May we become a community in which it is safe to be who we truly are, remembering that you have named us all good and valuable. May we become a community that shares the abundant new life you have provided with all we meet. May we become a community that is filled with grace, filled with hope, filled with love. May we be a community that embodies Christ's presence and promise. May we be people living the body of Christ.

Be with us as we learn. Guide us as we venture out. Shape us as we follow the calling you have for us.

In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday Worship
5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship
10:30 a.m.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
9:00-Noon
or by appointment

Happy Birthday!

8/1	Jacob Hamilton	8/16	Sheldon Johnson
	Jesse Hamilton		Braylin Johnson
8/2	Colin Cummins	8/17	Duane Quanbeck
	Terri Hayden	8/19	Arlene Dobesh
8/5	Judy Floss		Carey Jordan
	Geraldine Routh	8/21	Elizabeth McVey
8/6	Kathy Wilken	8/22	Debora Lammey
8/7	Blake Geilenfeldt	8/23	Leah Johnson
	Duane Jolivette	8/26	Cami Wright
	Deborah Rose	8/27	Steven Putz
8/9	Thomas Hodnett	8/28	Barbara Birkenholtz
8/10	Alexander Bruer		Marilyn Gelinas
8/11	Aaron Monroe		Candy Thompson
	Rachel Monroe	8/29	Elizabeth Coyle
8/12	Katelyn Jolivette		Bo Eggers
		8/30	Marcelina Marvelli



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. .** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Aug 2—
Aug 9—Dobesh
Aug 16—Ayers
Aug 23—
Aug 30—

Fellowship

Aug 2—Cammie, Ing, Gloria,
Candy
Aug 9—Dobesh
Aug 16—
Aug 23—
Aug 30—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

RISE UP TOGETHER

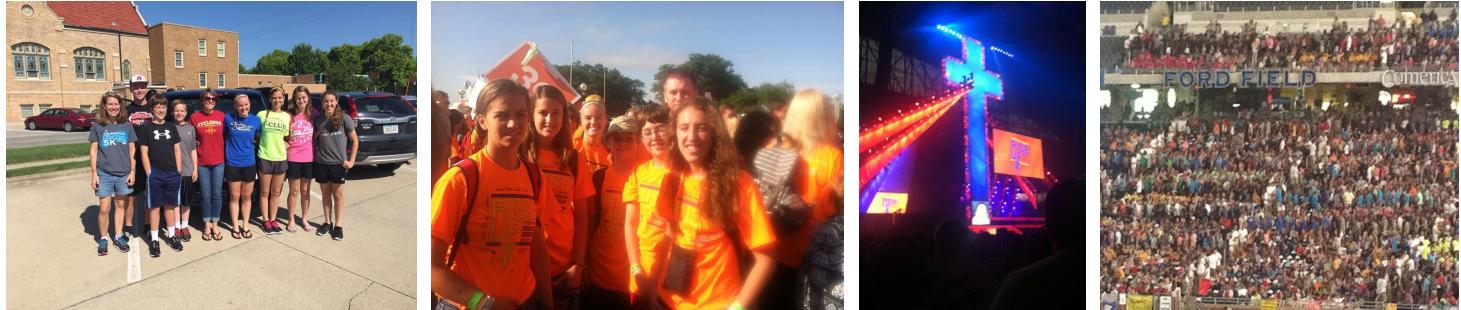
2015 ELCA Youth Gathering

Detroit, Michigan

THANKS for supporting our trip to Detroit!

Anna Coyle, Lizzy Coyle, Anna Forsyth, Chris Forsyth*, Isaac Friedman, Robyn Friedman*, Devon Hobbs, Victoria Jordan, and Andrew Weiland.

*Group Leader



This year's "Corn Boil" co-chairs, Arlene Dobesh and Vicki Porter, want to extend a round of applause and a big "THANK YOU!" to everyone who helped make the corn boil such a fun and successful event! (The corn-shuckers and corn washers, all the kitchen help: the slicers, dicers, and table setters, corn –cookers, beef burger makers, runners, drink servers, corn "dunkers," those who donated food, and the dish washers and dryers---we couldn't have done it without all your help!) And, to all those we served and to all those who came out and enjoyed the event, "Thank You!" We served a record crowd and what a great, fun-filled event it turned out to be for our First Lutheran family!



Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that helped with our July Wednesday Night Community Dinners! Our next dinners are scheduled on August 12th at the McCann Center and August 26th back at First United Methodist. Please watch for the sign up sheets in the narthex and announcements to join us to continue this very important community service.



God is doing a new thing!
There's power in numbers
so the downtown churches
are joining forces for
one big youth group.

We'll be gathering for a kick off event on
**Sunday August 9, 6-8PM at the Friendship House.
213 N 3rd Ave E (across the street from First Lutheran)**

Dinner will be provided.

All middle and high school youth welcome!

**Beginning September 13,
we will be meeting every Sunday night 6-8PM
during the school year.**

**We hope you can make it and feel free to
bring a friend or two or several!**

**Salad Supper Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 5:30
Last Summer Community Dinner at McCann Center
Help Needed**

The community meal site is hosting a salad supper Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 5:30 p.m. Twelve salads are needed from First Lutheran. They should serve 10-12 people and can be any variety and may be brought to the McCann Center at Sacred Heart Church about 4 p.m. or after. Other arrangements can be made by calling Marlys Amundsen 515-210-4763.

Please come help with this important community service. Our regular community dinner night on August 26th will be back at First United Methodist. We are losing churches that serve the meal, if you belong to a civic group that could help, even quarterly, please call Marlys.

Former Pastor Matthew Martens Retires



Longtime First Lutheran members will remember Matthew Martens, who served as pastor of our congregation from January, 1993 to April, 2002. He then served Zion Lutheran in Clinton, and has spent the last nine years at Grace Lutheran in Fort Dodge.

Pastor Martens is retiring from full time ministry. His congregation is honoring him with a retirement celebration on Sunday, August 30. Worship will be at 9:30, followed by a program and meal at 11:00. All his friends are invited. If you wish to attend the program and meal, please RSVP to Kris Kern at 515-570-5588, or email martensretirement@gmail.com by July 31. The celebration will be at Grace Lutheran Church, 211 South 9th Street, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Continuing Conversations on Racism

A local conversation on racism was started in June with the showing of the movie Selma, brought to our Newton Capitol II Theatre by nine local congregations. We now have two more chances to continue the conversation.

First, you can join ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and William B. Horne II, an ELCA member from Clearwater, Fla., for a live webcast conversation on the complexity and implications of racism **Aug. 6th at 8 p.m.** (CDT). You can find out more at the ELCA website: <http://elca.org/webcast>.

A link to the live webcast will be embedded on the page. A live stream also will be available at [www.Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans). Twitter hashtag is #ELCAConfrontRacism. A recording of the webcast will be made available there. There are even instructions on how to submit a question.

Second, locally you can rejoin the conversation in Newton on **Wednesday, August 19th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm** at the Congregational United Church of Christ next door to First Lutheran. Come prepared for conversation and to brainstorm ways we might move forward in our efforts to dismantle racism in Jasper County. Light refreshments will be provided. No RSVP is required but notice would be appreciated if you are bringing a group.

Prayer Corner

Please pray for all of our families, friends and church family. Pray for our community during the last frantic hurrahs of summer festivities and as school starts again. Pray for the experience of fellowship to be with all who join in the outdoor worship among many churches at the end of the month. Pray that many will grow and maintain new supportive relationships as the middle and high school youth of many churches come together for a new Downtown Youth Group. Please ask God's blessing on all who work on and experience these new endeavors. Give thanks for the abundance of summer as seen in the growth and produce of our gardens. Please continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world.

Summer Services

The last Saturday worship service of the summer

will be held on August 22nd.

Please mark your calendars.

Combined Downtown Churches Worship Service and Rally Day

**Sunday, August 30th at 10 a.m.
Come worship outside on 3rd Avenue**

Join First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Congregational United Church of Christ and the Salvation Army as we gather to start off the new school year with a combined worship service and rally day! Come join us to worship, picnic, play games and have fun and fellowship with our downtown neighbors in Christ!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.