



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2016
First Epistle

After hearing so much about politics, maybe you would like to hear about something a little different. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* launched February 1, 2014. As a way to deepen understanding and enhance engagement with the campaign and its 10 priorities, each campaign component was given an annual theme year in which special emphasis would be given to its ministries. In 2016, we are celebrating ELCA World Hunger's annual theme year.

ELCA World Hunger has worked on hunger issues for more than 40 years and have been able to make a worldwide impact. However, the rate of global progress against hunger is slowing in many of the world's poorest communities and this is even reflected here in the United States. There is more work to be done.

The Southeast Iowa Synod identifies itself as an anti-hunger synod. It encourages its members to look for and join in ways to address these issues in each community. Here in Newton, First Lutheran has joined other churches for years in partnering with the Salvation Army to serve a community meal each week.

The Community Meal serves 80-100 people each week. Some give what money they can for their meal, glad for a meal they didn't have to cook or for some company that eases their loneliness. Others, on disability or otherwise living in poverty, are glad for a free meal as they have little left for food after paying for rent, electricity and medication. For the homeless, yes, here in Newton, the homeless, it will be one of the few meals, and maybe the only hot meal they eat that week.

In a recent meeting the Salvation Army told its church partners, that due to low funding, it was uncertain how long it would be able to continue supporting the Community Meal financially. Some church partners have an internal fund that supports the meal they provide. Now seems like a good time for First Lutheran to follow this example.

A Community Meal Fund will be created to help support the meal First Lutheran provides on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Anyone may donate to it at any time, but to get it started we will do two things. First, the Community Meal Fund will be our Lenten Mission and receive the funds from special services during Lent. Second, we will take one of the many suggestions from ELCA World Hunger and have a special Leap Day offering on February 28 for the Community Meal Fund to celebrate an extra day to fight hunger.

So really we are bookending our month with local hunger fights. On February 7 we will celebrate the 'Souper' Bowl by bringing canned soup to worship service to be given to the Salvation Army food pantry and on the 28th we will take a special Leap Day offering to support the Community Meal.

This is one way we 'Live the Body of Christ' in our community. Please join in the events we have planned and bring forth your ideas for events you would like to see or plan. We may not be able to do every event, but every event we do makes a difference.

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



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2/2 Sharry McGuire | 2/15 Jayne Goos |
| 2/4 Marlys Amundsen | Julie Leckband |
| 2/5 Arthur Greve III | 2/16 Elaine Elliott |
| 2/10 Jane Johnson | 2/19 Julie Brown |
| Cole Smith | 2/23 Brian Friedman |
| 2/11 Bev Russell | 2/27 Alex Anderson |
| 2/12 Ing Benskin | Bethany Baumgartner |
| Katie Cantu | Evelyn George |
| Sarah Grunig | Ashlyn Karsten |
| 2/14 Andrew Lammey | |



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 February, peanut butter and jelly are being requested. There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

- Feb. 7—
- Feb. 14—
- Feb 21—
- Feb. 28—

Fellowship

- Feb. 7— Thrivent
- Feb. 14—
- Feb 21—
- Feb. 28—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

Winter Weather Reminder



Just a reminder that First Lutheran Church follows the lead of the Newton School District during the week. If school is closed or let out early due to inclement weather, then the church is closed and activities are cancelled.

In regards to Sunday service cancelations, news will be reported on KCCI-TV, WHO-TV or KCOB-Radio. We will also try to put a note on the Facebook page.

Remember to stay safe and keep warm!

Memorial Service Notice:

In January we were sorry to announce that former Pastor Gene Cedarholm's wife Del passed away on January 7th.

A memorial service for Delores Cedarholm will be held here at First Lutheran on February 27th at 11:00 a.m.

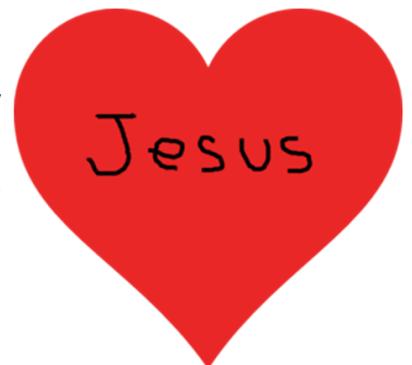


Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Automatic Door Fund. The property committee is in the process of taking the next steps to decide the best installation plan for our building.

Please note Listening Assisted Devices are available each week at First Lutheran. Please ask an usher if you would like to try one.

Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that helped with our Wednesday Night Community Dinner this past month! Our next dinner is on **February 24th**. Ours is always the fourth Wednesday of the month and we help if there is a fifth. Please join us again to continue this very important community service. A warm meal on a cold night helps a lot of people. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 9th, 5:30-7:00pm

Bring your appetite!
We will need helpers!

Need help with ..

SETTING UP, starting at 3:30 - 4:00,

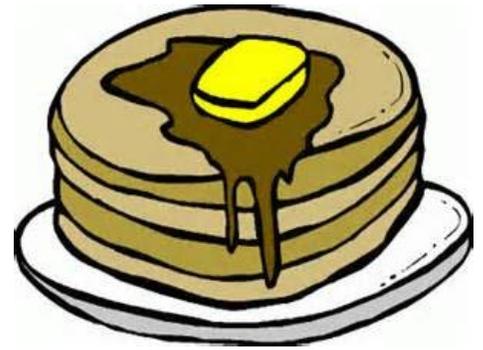
SERVERS during the meal,
and CLEANERS for after the meal.

ANY and ALL help is needed,

the more HELP we have = success for ALL.

Please sign up on the sheets provided in the narthex.

SEE YOU THERE!



Be My Valentine!

Valentine's Day is coming up fast, and again, you have the opportunity to give your Valentine the very best: a First Lutheran Valentine. **Our popular Sweets for Your Sweet bake sale returns this year, just in time!**

We will be selling plates of sweets at the **YMCA on Saturday, February 13, from 9 a.m. until noon.** As in the past, buyers will choose a selection of ten items for their plate, and will be able to choose a free home-made Valentine card as well. Any left-over treats and cards will be available at Fellowship time on Valentine's Day. When you buy a plate of homemade sweets for your Valentine and select one of our unique handmade cards to delight your sweetheart, you help bring excellent medical care to the children of Zinga, Tanzania.

This event succeeds because of the delicious treats donated by First Lutherans. We have some excellent and generous bakers and candy-makers among us! A clipboard will be passed in church the Sundays leading up to the sale.

First Lutheran Valentine cards and treats are the best!
The Zinga Mission Group

Prayer Corner

We pray for all of our families, friends and church family. Our Lord Jesus has come to each of us to live in our hearts. As we think about love this month, we are breathless at how much you love us God, show us Lord, how to use the talents and blessings you have given us, to do your work in the world. Lead us to explore ways we can challenge ourselves during the season of Lent that starts this month, and show your love to the world. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world.

News about First Lutheran and Thrivent:

At First Lutheran Church you have likely heard about things that some of us have been doing with Thrivent funding. I want to give everyone a brief update on this. Thrivent currently has two ways that Thrivent members can and have been supporting our church; one is through "Thrivent Choice Dollars" allocation and the other is through Thrivent Action Teams.

Choice Dollars: Choice Dollars that have already been allocated to our Church bank account will be used to match all donations that church members make for the purchase and installation of a new automatically operated door by the West entry near the carport and elevator. Also, plans are in the works to explore purchasing a defibrillator with Choice Dollar funding. In the past year, 16 different First Lutheran Thrivent members have designated \$2,596 of Choice Dollars to First Lutheran. The Thrivent records indicate that there is a potential total of 49 individual First Lutheran Church members that could designate their Choice Dollars. That means that while 16 members have (1/3 of the eligible folks) 33 people have not. Not all Thrivent members are eligible to designate Choice Dollars but many are (it depends on the type of Thrivent products they own). I do wonder, though, what amount First Lutheran could receive from Thrivent Choice Dollars if everyone who was eligible allocated theirs. On March 30th the Choice Dollars that were made available in 2015 will expire and cannot be designated any longer. If you are a Thrivent member, time is of the essence to allocate those funds from last year. Those that have Choice Dollars available to designate can either do it on-line or call Thrivent ([800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836)) and say "Choice Dollars".

Choice Dollars are complex to explain in a short article, but they can provide a significant method of support to our church and other non-profit organizations. Here is the website that explains the Choice Dollar Program: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

Thrivent Action Teams: All Thrivent [Benefit members](#) are eligible to lead two Action Teams per year, and there are 97 benefit members at First. In the past few months there have been two Action Teams formed at First Lutheran. The first was to help provide for the 100th Anniversary of the Church Building dinner and another formed from a Dinner for 8 group to create the chancel photo note cards that are on sale to raise money for the repair or replacement of the Church's organ. The note card sales thus far have amounted to \$250 being added to the organ fund. They remain for sale through the church office or by contacting the Amundsens, Quanbecks, Friedmans or Petersons.

If you are a Thrivent member, you could easily initiate an Action team. Here is how it works: Think about an unmet need in our church or community and then apply to lead an action team in a one time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed in 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit including a promotional banner, invitations and thank you cards, T-shirts and a \$250 community impact card that you can use as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials. When the activity is completed you will need to submit a summary. You can find out more at <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> or Call [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Action Teams."

Bob Wykoff, Thrivent Financial Associate from Des Moines, will be joining us on February 7th. During Fellowship time he will provide information and answer any questions about Choice Dollar allocation and Action Teams. If you have specific questions before then, you can contact him at 515-276-1527.



2016
LENTEN
SCHEDULE

February 10	Ash Wednesday
February 17	
February 24	
March 2	
March 9	
March 16	
March 20	Palm/Passion Sunday
March 24	Maundy Thursday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter

Please join us on our Lenten journey as we learn to pray by studying Martin Luther's bible studies featuring many familiar characters from the Old Testament.
All Lenten services will be held at 7:00pm here at First Lutheran.

Psalms & Spirituals with the National Lutheran Choir

Join the National Lutheran Choir led by artistic director and organist, David Cherwien for a unique blend of choral music, spoken reflections and congregational hymnody. Experience the artistry of the National Lutheran Choir as they perform songs of faith, and join together in singing well-known – and perhaps new – hymns with the choir!

This special concert will feature works by James Miller, Moses Hogan, André Thomas, as well as Stanford and Cherwien.

Saturday, February 20, 2016 – 7PM
First United Methodist Church, 516 Kellogg Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature.

To learn more about the choir, visit www.NLCA.com, on Facebook and Twitter @NLChoir, and on YouTube.

See you there!



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