



**First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA
2017
First Epistle**

From the Pastor...

New Year's Prayer

Oh Son of God, Lord of the Most High, we give you praise and glory for this past year of blessings from which our lives have been enriched. We give thanks for all the trials and tribulations that have tested our faith and has now brought us forth to a New Year of opportunities to embrace the love of Christ. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, in your infinite mercy, you have shared your endless grace upon each of us and our church home. Thank you, Lord, for all the gifts of love you have provided to us so that we may reflect the love of Christ and his enduring presence in our lives. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, as we enter this New Year, may our love for Christ burn ever so brightly so that the world will recognize us as faithful children who are obedient to God's Will. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Oh God, you are the Almighty, capable of rendering any storm into a sea of tranquility. In this New Year, whether from the forces of nature or from inner turmoil in our lives, may your loving hand always be present to calm the seas that disrupt our lives. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Oh Lord, you know the needs of all your children – food, shelter, medical care, financial resources, physical and emotional support, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us through each day of the coming New Year. We humbly petition you to provide for all our needs so that we may be equipped to meet our personal needs and the needs of our families. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, from you we have received bountiful blessings. From you we have received the gift of eternal life. And from you, we gain the strength to face the adversities in life that can pull us off the path of faithfulness and lead us astray. Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit and with an unquenchable thirst to love and serve you, may we always be faithful to your Holy Word. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

O Christ, Son of God, and the light of this world, as we enter this New Year, we give thanks and praise that we can always come before you with petitions of our hearts and know that our concerns and fears will be alleviated because of the endless grace you have provided through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, so many of your children are suffering and in need of healing. Lift us up, O Lord, when we are in spiritual decline and in need of physical and emotional restoration. Lord, our trust is in you and the promises you have given to all your children. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Precious Jesus, and Lord of our lives, you are the source of all truth and righteousness in this world. As we enter this New Year full of anticipation and hope for our future, may we remember to be faithful in giving back to you what you have so generously given to us. Help us to be faithful stewards of our resources and to support the financial needs of our church with loving and generous hearts. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Great God, with you and through the power of the Holy Spirit, all things are possible. Grant us, Lord Jesus, all that we need to fulfill your Great Commission. In this New Year, help us to grow our church, not as a way of reaching insignificant numbers, but in a sincere desire to reach the lost and to lead them to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy.

Amen.

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship
10:30 a.m.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

309 E. 3rd St. N.,
Newton, IA 50208
Phone: 641-792-3934
Fax: 641-792-3937

Email:
office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

www.newtonfirstlutheran.org

Pastor Zach Bey

zach@newtonfirstlutheran.org
641-791-7796

President

Julie Laube
jlaube68@gmail.com
641-792-1225

Vice President

Terri Hayden
terrihayden63@gmail.com
641-831-5555

Secretary

Katie Cantu
cantu@iowatelcom.net
641-840-2750

Treasurer

Administrative Assistant

Kellie Kramer
office@newtonfirstlutheran.org
641-792-3934

Pastor's Office Hours

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Potluck in January Is on the 2nd Sunday!

Since the first Sunday of the new year is also the New Year's Day holiday, the January potluck will be held on the second Sunday of the month on January 8th. So please come and join us for warm food and fellowship during the cold weather.

Note cards featuring photos of the Chancel at First Lutheran will be available to purchase after church in the Narthex and weekday mornings at the church office. These cards feature the chancel decorated for Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and another featuring just the tapestry. They are packaged, two of each card, in sets of 8 with envelopes and sell for \$10 each. All of the proceeds from card sales go into the 'organ fund'.

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 January, soup and crackers have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Jan. 1—Trees & poinsettias
Jan. 8— Poinsettias
Jan. 13—
Jan. 22—
Jan. 29—

Fellowship

Jan. 1—Amundsen
Jan. 8—Monroe x 2
Jan. 13—
Jan. 22—
Jan. 29—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/3	Julie Trusler	1/19	Ramona Cooper
1/4	Tonya Smith	1/21	Lauryn Grabe
1/7	Jorgen Rose	1/22	Art Cooper
1/8	Mark Monroe	1/25	Garrett Cantu
1/10	Marty Smith	1/28	Ruth Sharp
1/14	Macy Lampe	1/31	Lee Swenson
1/16	Richard Klopping		
	Ronald Klopping		

Bad Weather Policy

First Lutheran follows the lead of the Newton School District during the week. If school is closed or closes early, then church is closed and activities cancelled.

On Sunday, if there is significant snow, ice or wind chill, cancellations will be reported on KCCI-TV, WHO-TV or KCOB-radio. We will also try to have a note on the Facebook page.

Stay safe and keep warm!



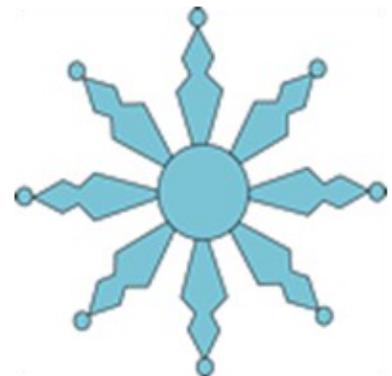
Don't Forget!

Congregational Annual meeting on January 22nd

All confirmed members are encouraged to attend to review the past year and make plans for the next. The meeting will be directly after the worship service with fellowship to follow downstairs in the fellowship hall after this brief meeting.

Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that helped with our Wednesday Night Community Dinner all this past year! Our next Wednesday Night Community Dinner will be on January 25th at the Methodist Church. The menu for the month is posted in the narthex on the main bulletin-board. Help Jesus feed the hungry!



What a busy holiday season we had at First Lutheran!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our November Choices in Mission project — God's Global Barnyard! Together we donated \$2540.00, that was matched for a total of \$5080.00!

Thank you to all those who rang bells for the Salvation Army!

Thank you to everyone who went caroling and gathered to enjoy the chili. Special thanks to Doug Wilken for making the chili for us.

Thank you to all who provided a gift for a senior at Careage/Accura West! A note from them is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church by putting up trees and wreaths and arranging the poinsettias. Special thanks to Pat Foote, Candy Thompson, Stan and Carolyn Kirchhoff. Special thanks to all who provided poinsettias for the church is found on the next page.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas program on Christmas Eve this year.

Thank you to all who direct your Thrivent choice dollars to First Lutheran for special projects all throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who helps clean up First Lutheran all during the year after fellowship and special events all year. Thanks to Property committee members for keeping up with maintenance and repairs for the building and grounds. Special thanks to Jane Johnson as janitor and Steve Putz for special carpet and floor cleaning.

Thank you to all who help acolyte, usher, read, serve on council and run the slide show during the year. Worship service just wouldn't be the same without you.

Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for all the amazing blessings you rain down on us. You have given us a new year to do your work and continue our ministry right here in Newton, Iowa and reaching our across the world. You have given us your son, Jesus, to be with us through our days and he has set an example for us in how to do your work in your world. You give us your grace to move forward and your forgiveness when we falter. Lead us in to this new year, doing your will. Help us to keep warm and safe during the cold and winter weather. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

Thank you to all who provided poinsettias for our Christmas services!

Marlys & Dirk Amundsen - in memory of family.

Barb & Alex Anderson - in memory of Carl & Mickey Anderson, Tim Anderson.

Ramona & Art Cooper - in honor of God's blessings on us.

Corinne & Bruce Coyle - in memory of our parents, Ken & Mildred Stover, and Bob Coyle.

Arlene & Dennis Dobesh - in memory of parents Elmer & Florence Dobesh.

Arlene & Dennis Dobesh - in memory of parents Emil & Christena Neuharth.

Bob Floss in memory of Judy Floss and our parents, Gene & Marie Floss and Bill & Ann Dunsbergen.

Pat Foote - in memory of husband Richard Foote.

Evelyn & Andy George - in memory of Don & Iva Lou George.

Evelyn & Andy George - in memory of Alma Roth.

Jayne & David Goos - in honor of wonderful friends—our 'First family'.

Jayne & David Goos - in memory of Jayne's dad and all our grandparents.

Gloria & Jim Grant - in honor of our children, grandchildren and the great grandchildren.

Terri & Tom Hayden - in memory of Robert Bullers

Terri & Tom Hayden - in memory of Thomas Hayden.

Hal Herbold - in memory of Howard & Alice Herbold by son Hal.

Hal Herbold - in memory of Glenn & Tudy Herbold by nephew Hal.

Jane & Gary Johnson - in memory of Jane's brother Craig.

Carolyn & Stan Kirchhoff - in memory of Ida & Ray Fausch, and Zanita & Frank Kirchhoff.

Martha Circle - in memory of all past members of Martha Circle.

Fred Matthias - in honor of Dorothy 'Dot' Logan.

Dotty Mittelstadt - in memory of Robert Mittelstadt.

Jane & Ken Odland - in memory of Irvin Odland.

Jane & Ken Odland - in memory of Robert Beiderman, Philip and David Biederman.

Barb & Al Orsund - in memory of our parents, loved ones and the Glory of the Christ child.

Sharon Petersma in memory of my husband Del Petersma.

Betty & Craig Peterson - in memory of Harold and Marion Peterson, and Dillon and Dorothy Finney.

Vicki & Dennis Porter - in memory of parents Edward & Velma Pederson.

Vicki & Dennis Porter - in memory of parents George & Janet Porter.

Pat & Steve Putz - in memory of daughter Angie, sisters Sharron & Martha and Ken Meyer.

Marie & Duane Quanbeck in honor of Paula & Denny Lofstrom and their work at Zinga, Tanzania.

Deb Rose & family to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Colleen Spain - in memory of Bob Spain by his family.

Candy Thompson - in memory of Margaret, Paul, and Debra Thompson.

Cammie Wisgerhof - in memory of grandparents Bill & Anna Redemsky.

A New Harmony

Zach has always had a love of the outdoors. In his free time, he can usually be found in his back yard, mowing the lawn or making sure his snow blower is working properly before the first snow.

But when Zach began working with his hourly support staff, Shane, he found a new love: music.

Shane is an hourly support staff with LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Each week, the duo works together to help Zach stay active in the community, practice his coping skills, and achieve his personal goals. Music therapy has become a major part of their time together.

"We play guitar quite a bit," Shane says. "I think music therapy is very important. It just helps calm the soul down."

During each session, Shane teaches Zach a few new chords or strumming patterns that Zach can practice on his own.

"I know when I've had a long, bad day at work, I get kind of angry rather quickly," Zach says. "If I can, I go to my room and grab my guitar and start strumming some chords. I'm not much of a singer, but I've started putting some words with some of the jamming out I do."

Seeing Zach's new appreciation for guitar is just one way Shane is constantly inspired to come to work.

"A lot of motivation for hourly work is you only have a short amount of time with the individual, and it has to change their life," he says. "When we can use our time to utilize music like Zach has, it can be a great coping skill, and it's working for him."

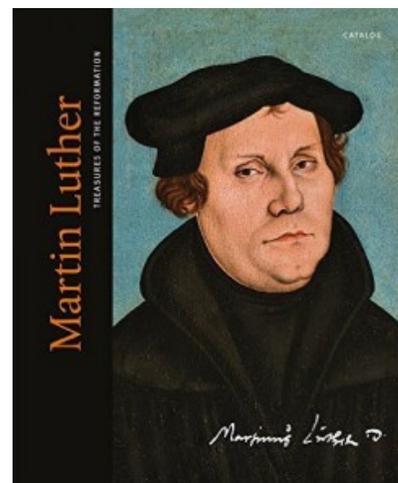
Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation

Five hundred years ago, one man took a stand that shook Europe and changed the world. Now you can see the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation brought to life through astonishing artworks and historical objects, traveling outside of Germany for the first time ever. Luther used art and the newly invented printing press to challenge Europe's leaders and spread a revolution of religious, cultural, and societal change. This exhibition includes paintings, sculptures, gold, textiles, and works on paper - as well as Luther's personal possessions and recent archaeological finds - that shed new light on an explosive era and the man who ignited it.

This exhibit is open now through January 15, 2017, at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Ticket prices and more information can be found at;

<http://new.artsmia.org/luther/>



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

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	2 5:00 Bible Study	3	4 6:30 Property 6:30 Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship 11:00 Potluck	9 5:00 Bible Study 7:00 Hannah	10	11 6:30 Confirmation	12 4-7pm Listening Team Conversation	13	14
15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	16 5:00 Bible Study	17	18 9:00 Lois 1:00 Martha 6:30 Confirmation	19 6:00 Council 7:00 Eunice	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship Annual Meeting	23 5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due	24	25 5:30 Community Dinner 6:30 Confirmation	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	30 5:00 Bible Study	31 9:00 Dorcas				

January Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
January 1st		Steve Putz	Pat & Steve Putz	Marlys Amundsen	Dave Troen, Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Duane Quanbeck
January 8th	Blake Baumgartner, Lane Rose	Deb Rose		Bethany Baumgartner	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis	Matt Coyle
January 15th		Art Cooper		Jane Odland	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	
January 22nd		Terri Hayden		Marie Quanbeck	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	
January 29th		Pat Foote		Julie Laube	Captains	

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Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!