



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2017

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

Hello New Beginnings

Greetings to the First Lutheran Church family in Newton! My name is Pastor Mark Holmes and I will be serving as your interim Pastor as you enter into a time of transition and prepare to call your next pastor. I look forward to getting to know each of you as we worship and serve together.

First... a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in West Branch, Iowa with 5 brothers and sisters. Yes, my parents were crazy! After graduating from Wartburg College, I worked at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp just west of Fort Collins, Colorado, serving as a backpack guide and camp manager. My seminary studies were completed at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN followed by my first call to Boone, IA. I have also served churches in State Center, Grimes, and Perry. My work as an interim pastor includes service at Huxley and Russellville, MO.

My wife, Jody, and I presently live in Clive. We have three adult children who all live in the Des Moines area... and we have a 4-year-old grandson! Jody works as a Project Manager for CSG Government Solutions based in Chicago and is currently working a contract with the State of Iowa.

My interests include music, reading, canoeing, and backpacking. In fact, I will be backpacking a section of the Appalachian Trail this summer with a friend. This same friend joined me several years ago on a trip to Tanzania where we visited our sister congregation, did service work at Gonja Lutheran Hospital, and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.

As the school year comes to a close, I hope each of you remain committed to regular church attendance through-out the summer so I have the chance to meet you. I want to hear your stories of faith and commitment. I want to hear about your hopes and dreams for First Lutheran Church. I want to witness first-hand how God continues to bless this congregation and community.

I had the opportunity to meet most of the church council and am excited about the energy and optimism that they shared. I know that God has a bold future planned for First Lutheran and He will be using this time of transition to prepare our hearts for all that is to come! It will be quite an adventure! Don't miss it!

Living in Gods 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 in May Is on the 7th!

Let's start a busy month off right! Join us after the service in the fellowship hall for our monthly First Sunday Potluck. Hope to see you there!



We are thankful for our men and women in service and all those who have gone before us to the Glory of the Lord.

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 May, pancake mix, muffin and bread mixes and syrup have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

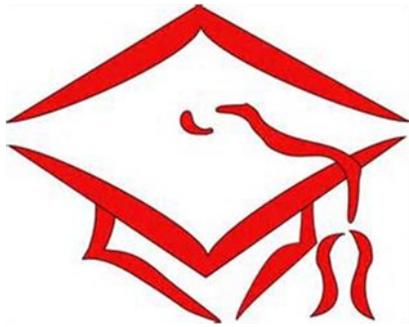
Chancel Flowers

May 7—
May 14—
May 21— Monroe
May 28—

Fellowship

May 7— Potluck
May 14—
May 21— Faith Formation
May 28—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS:

**Morgan Allen
Lizzy Coyle**



5/5	Gary Johnson	5/20	Alice Klopping
	Heidi Sumpter	5/22	Sue Thompson
5/6	Andrew Shockey	5/23	Matthew Moran
5/7	Gloria Grant		Sarah Sandquist
5/8	Isaac Friedman		Marv Zimmermann
5/10	Mason Moran	5/26	Ben Breuer
5/12	Lane Rose		Claire Breuer
5/13	Ben Lampe	5/28	Colleen Spain
5/14	Janice Olson	5/29	Madison Christy
5/15	Sara Shockey	5/31	Andrew Weiland
5/18	Eric Jordan		

Thank you to Steven Putz for polishing all the lower level floors before Easter. They look great!
- Property Committee

Thank you to everyone who gave memorials and helped with Fred Matthias' funeral. It was great to see him so honored by his friends and church family.
- Family of Fred Matthias

Thank you!



Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that helped with our Wednesday Night Community Dinner this past month! Our next Wednesday Night Community Dinners will be on May 24th and 31st at the Methodist Church. The menu for the month is posted in the narthex on the main bulletin board. Come help Jesus feed the hungry!

News from Zinga!

Paula and Denny are settled in, ready for this year's teams to start arriving. The year is fully booked, and four teams are already on the docket for 2018.

It has been one year since the Children's Hospital Zinga opened its outpatient unit. In that time, 2883 patients have been seen, many for multiple visits. Prices are kept low, and children five and younger receive free care. Our donations help make this possible.

Just last week, a 38-year-old woman, mother of four, came in with a galloping heart rate of 162 and blood pressure of 170/119. How long has she had this condition? Who knows? Clubbed fingers indicate it might have been since childhood. She couldn't remember any doctor ever listening to her heart. She was referred to a cardiologist in Dar es Salaam.

A two-year-old was brought in with a fever of 104° F and bloody stools. His family had taken him to a local healer. What had he been given, and in what amounts? When did he start getting worse?

We have heard of pregnant women in the southern United States eating clay. In Tanzania, it is common for pregnant women to eat a certain kind of sand, for sale in the marketplace. It no doubt contains some minerals, but which? And how much? And what if a woman is still eating sand after delivery, and her child is also eating the sand? The answer is vitamins, once a day, with iron. But they are expensive. About 15% of Tanzanian children five and younger have some degree of iron deficiency anemia. Our donations also help provide vitamins for these little ones.

A copy of Paula's April Update will be posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Check it out!

We thank God for the work being done in Zinga and pray for His continued blessings on the hospital and those who give and receive care there.

For our Tanzania Mission,
Marie Quanbeck

Dinner for Eight Update

It's time to shuffle "Dinner for Eight" groups. Please let Judy Swenson know if you want to participate in the summer May to August session. Contact her by email at jjjswen@gmail.com or phone 792-2786. We look forward to another fun round of getting to know each other better!

Hospitality

As Disciples of Christ one of our main responsibilities is to bring new people to Jesus. In order to be effective at this we need to welcome them into this house of worship. Here are a few suggestions to help us do this.

1. Parking – If you are able to walk a half a block without trouble consider parking in our parking lot or across the street. This allows visitors and those who have trouble walking to park close.
2. Smile, at visitors and smile at people you already know. We can give a smile to every person we meet and still have plenty left over.
3. Greet visitors before church starts. If you arrive 10 minutes early use this time to get to know people.
 - “it's great to have you with us today, I don't believe I know you, my name is”
 - “ welcome to First Lutheran Church it's great to have you with us today”
 - “it's nice to have you with us today are you visiting?”
4. Don't gang up on someone. If someone already has a visitor engaged be aware not to overwhelm them with too much attention.
5. Consider sitting in different locations in the church from Sunday to Sunday. Move into the center of the pew if you were the first to arrive allowing space for visitors or others to join you. This helps you to know other members and get to know visitors.
6. When you are sharing the peace try and do so with people you do not already know.
7. After worship use of the same greetings which are suggested above if you did not have a chance to talk with people. Invite visitors to join you in fellowship hall for refreshments and conversation, take them down, go through the line, and sit with them.
8. We now have a visitor card for people to complete if they have not already received one ask one of the ushers or the Council on duty to provide one.
9. Be authentic, you do not have to be an extreme extrovert to speak to people. Be yourself, use the popular question, what would Jesus Do?
10. Pray for the hospitality of First Lutheran and for those who visit.

Don't Forget—You can make lasting change from special occasions

May is a month full of special occasions, but sometimes it can be difficult to find another great 'thing' to buy for someone. Consider instead using the ELCA Good Gifts catalog to purchase as gift of change for the world in line with someone's interests.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for June 12-16 from 9-12 noon for our annual Vacation Bible School! Our theme this year is Maker Fun Factory and it looks to be great fun for all ages! We will again be combining with First Presbyterian and United Presbyterian churches for this week of fun. Bring a friend or two along and join us on this adventure. VBS is open to preschool through 6th grade. Kids just finishing 6th grade through high school are greatly appreciated as Junior Helpers that week! Adult helpers would be appreciated too! Please let us know if you can help. A registration form is at right and will be available at the office and in the narthex through May and June.



VBS REGISTRATION FORM June 12-16, 2017 9:00am-12 noon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____

School Grade in coming year _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Relationship to Child _____

Who will be picking up your child from VBS?

Relationship to Child _____

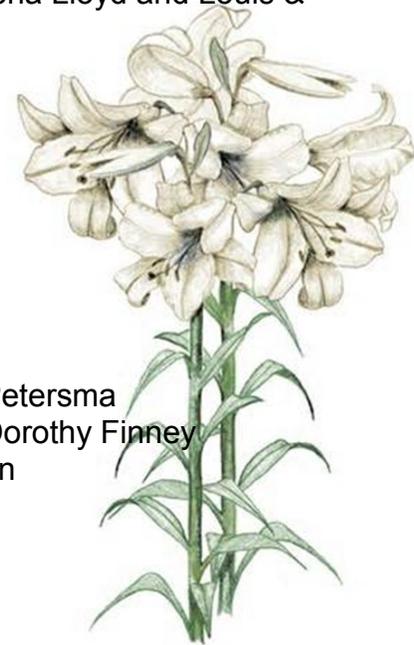
Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the beautiful month of May. We look forward to the warmer weather and all the celebrations that are scheduled in this month. We celebrate all those who mother us and their life changing love. We celebrate graduates and the new life journeys they start that are so full of mystery and promise. We celebrate and remember our military veterans and those who have gone home to you before us. We thank you Lord for all these reasons to celebrate that you bring into our lives. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

Easter Lilies were given to the glory of God by church members and friends:

Dirk & Marlys Amundsen – in memory of our parents and brothers
Alex & Barb Anderson – in memory of Carl & Micky Anderson & Tim Anderson
Brian & Krista Baumgartner – in memory of Floyd Baumgartner, beloved father & grandpa
Cantu family – in memory of our loved ones
Art & Ramona Cooper – in memory of Bud & Marvel Cooper, Martin & Marie Vanden Hoek
Bruce & Corinne Coyle – in honor of our First Lutheran Church family
Bruce & Corinne Coyle – in memory of our parents: Robert Coyle and Kenneth & Mildred Stover
Dennis & Arlene Dobesh – in memory of Elmer & Florence Dobesh, Emil & Christena Neuharth
Matt & Dianne Egenes, PJ & Michael – in memory of Lois & Paul Egenes
Bob Floss – in memory of Judy Floss
Pat Foote & family – in memory of Richard Foote: grandfather, father and husband
Andy & Evelyn George – in memory of our parents: Don & IvaLou George and Alma Roth
Jayne & David Goos – in honor of our parents and children as we celebrate the upcoming marriage of Bryan & Anne
Jayne & David Goos – in memory of our grandparents, Jayne's dad, and aunt Donna Keen
Gloria & Jim Grant – in honor of our children, grandchildren & great grandchildren
Tom & Terri Hayden – in memory of Tom's father
Tom & Terri Hayden – in memory of Terri's father
Hal Herbold – in memory of Howard & Alice Herbold
Hal Herbold – in memory of Glenn & Tudy Herbold
Mary Ann Iske – in memory of husband Elmer Iske and our parents: Ed & Rena Lloyd and Louis & Hilda Iske
Jordan family – in memory of Larry & Mary Jordan
Stan & Carolyn Kirchhoff – in honor of our First Lutheran family
Kellie Kramer – in honor of Dot Logan
Bob & Louisa Matthias – in memory of Fred Matthias
Bob & Louisa Matthias – in memory of Rosetta Matthias
Dotty Mittelstadt – in memory of Robert Mittelstadt
Mike & Stephanie Moran & family – in memory of Sean Ryan
Mike & Stephanie Moran & family – in memory of JoAnn Orr
Al & Barb Orsund – in honor of our parents
Sharon Petersma – in honor of Ruth Sharp and in memory of husband Del Petersma
Craig & Betty Peterson – in memory of Harold & Marion Peterson, Dillan & Dorothy Finney
Dennis & Vicki Porter – in memory of our parents: Edward & Velma Pederson
Dennis & Vicki Porter – in memory of our parents: George & Janet Porter
Pat Putz – in honor of God
Deb Rose & family – in memory of our grandparents
Duane & Marie Quanbeck – in memory of Fred Matthias
Bob & Sarah Sandquist – in honor of Pastor Zach
Ruth & Tom Sharp – in honor of the support & prayers for Ruth, and in memory of our parents
Colleen Spain – in memory of Bob Spain
Nancy Spransy – in memory of Fred & Rosetta Matthias
Laird & Julie Trusler – in memory of Judy Floss
Candy Thompson – in memory of Margaret, Paul and Debbie Thompson
Mo Wilkins – in honor of family
Connie & Marv Zimmermann – in memory of Jerry Ninnemann
Connie & Marv Zimmermann – in memory of Dolores Ninnemann



Did You Know

Did you know there are multiple ways to give as a response to God's love and what he has given you?

Envelopes – You can use your giving envelopes to place your check or money in the offering plate when it is passed.

Electronic Payments - Electronic withdrawals can be set up to automatically complete your regular giving from your checking account. You simply fill out the form, attach a voided check, and turn that in to the Church office. You can set this up for once a month on the 1st or the 15th or you can do two withdrawals each month. This can help you stay on track with your giving, plus you no longer have to worry about finding or forgetting your envelope.

Electronic Bill Pay through your bank - Many people use electronic bill pay through their bank to handle regular bills and expenses. You can setup your contributions this way as well and do it weekly, biweekly, monthly, or whatever schedule makes sense for you.

Credit Card – We are currently working on adding credit card payments as an option for you to complete your giving. This will be integrated into our website. While we will be setting up this option we encourage anyone using it to manage their credit wisely.

The Stewardship Committee encourages you to consider a regular electronic form of giving. This helps keep you on track and provides continuous financial support for the ministries of First Lutheran.



2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

May LSI Update

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI's Mental Health or Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see young first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2016, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 552 first-time parents. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider giving a gift in her name at www.LSIowa.org.

Thank you for standing alongside our Iowa families.

It Takes a Village

When Fan's first child, Rain, was born, she was determined to raise him to be gentle, patient, and independent. But as he entered his crawling, walking, and climbing phases, things began to change.

Originally from China, Fan was not well connected in her community. When Rain became a very mobile and curious toddler, she had no other parents to talk with about how to handle his latest developmental stages.

Fan turned to LSI's People Place, a family and community resource center in Ames. The program provides parents with access to low-cost or free parenting classes, support groups, and home visitations. For low-income families like Fan's, People Place is a life-changing resource.

Now Rain can play with other children his age at People Place, and Fan has a chance to meet more parents with similar life experiences.

"They've helped me a lot by answering my concerns when he's growing or developing a problem," Fan says. "Someone else there might be having the same problem, so you can connect with them. It's a lot more fun to learn in a group how to raise your kids instead of doing it alone."



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	2	3 <i>6:00 Confirmation 6:30 Property</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>9:30 Worship 11:00 Potluck & Education</i>	8 <i>5:00 Bible Study 7:00 Hannah</i>	9	10 <i>6:00 Confirmation</i>	11 <i>Good Cheer 6:00 Council</i>	12	13
14 <i>Mother's Day 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education</i>	15 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	16	17 <i>9:00 Lois 1:00 Martha 6:00 Confirmation</i>	18 <i>7:00 Eunice</i>	19	20
21 <i>Graduation 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education</i>	22 <i>5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due</i>	23	24 <i>5:30 Community Dinner</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education</i>	29 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i>	30 <i>9:00 Dorcas</i>	31			

May Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
May 7th	Brock Jordan	Julie Laube	Pat & Steve Putz	Marie Quanbeck	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Duane Quanbeck
May 14th	Thomas Hodnett	Deb Rose		Marlys Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	Matt Coyle
May 21st	Anna VanDam, Mae VanDam	Pat Foote		Dirk Amundsen	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	David Goos
May 28th	Isaac Friedman, Leo Friedman	Terri Hayden			Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	

First Lutheran Church
309 E 3rd St N
Newton, IA 50208

Special Events from Faith Formations

The Faith Formations Committee is planning several events. More information will be coming out about each of these soon.

May 14 - Mother's Day - Youth run service

May 21 - Graduation reception

June, July, & August - Book Club & Movie 'The Shack'

June 12-16 - Vacation Bible School

Also, you may or may not know that First Lutheran will contribute to the registration fees for youth summer camps at Riverside and Lutheran Lakeside. See the bulletin board in the Narthex or Deborah Rose or Robyn Friedman for more information.