



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2015 **First Epistle**

From the Pastor...

Healing

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

I was approached several months ago about the possibility of having an occasional healing service as part of our worship life. I thought a healing service was a wonderful idea and so began the process of figuring out how and when to do it. Immediately the idea of holding a healing service on the fifth Sunday of the month made sense. Approximately once a quarter we would then gather in worship to pray for healing and receive an anointing—healing both for physical and psychological ailments, healing for relational brokenness both individually and communally, healing as a church, a nation, a world. So let's do this! During worship on May 31 we will hold a healing service.

You will be invited if you wish to step forward to receive a blessing: "In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit." To you which you would respond, "Amen." In this ritual we will join together to participate in the healing of our broken bodies and spirits. In this ritual we will join together to pray for one another and for our community. In this ritual we will be once again be reminded of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives to affect transformation of both individuals and communities. Through this healing service we will take an intentional moment to remember that Jesus has invited us to come close, to lay our wearies and our burdens at the feet of our Savior and receive at least a moment of rest. When we feel the oil upon our brow we will have a chance to remember that we are never alone, that not only is God walking with us but we also have each other to lean on and to give us support. As we watch our sisters and brothers receive their anointing and blessing we are reminded that we are truly one body, that when one suffers we all suffer, that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ for each other.

The unity expressed in this ritual of healing goes beyond the people we see before us, it goes beyond our own desire to step forward for healing, it reaches out into the entire community not only here in Newton, but across the country and across the world. The healing becomes a sign that all people are God's people, that all people need healing, that all people are welcomed into the open arms of Jesus Christ our Savior. And then seeing the presence of the stranger or even the enemy in the embrace of the same Lord who embraces us, we see the power of Christ to reknit, to re-create, to resurrect. We see the picture of God's kingdom on earth encompassing all people and inviting everyone to join as one in the process of restoration and renewal of all creation.

This simple ritual in worship will create a new perspective of God's presence among us and among the whole world. Through healing we will experience the transformation of God's hand upon our brows. Let us stand boldly before God asking and praying for healing and in humility allow God's power to make us anew.

Peace,
Pastor Zach Bey

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship & Education
10:30 a.m.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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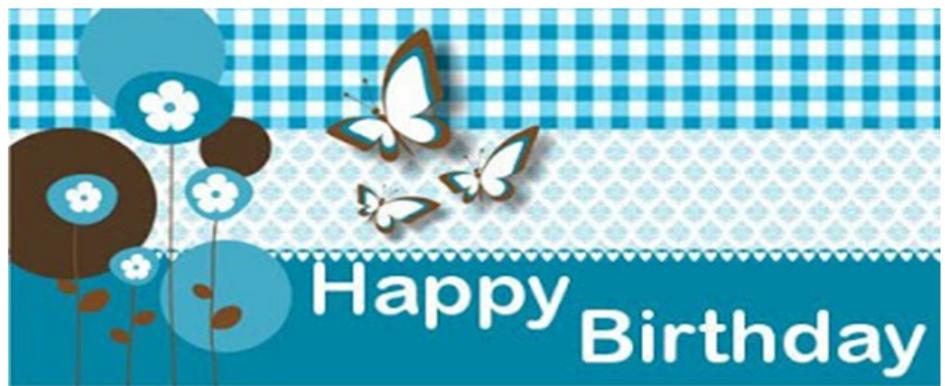
Kellie Kramer

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Pastor's Office Hours

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



5/1	Jodi Morgan-Peters	5/18	Eric Jordan
5/2	Chad Burton	5/19	Brian Rose
5/5	Gary Johnson	5/20	Alice Klopping
	Heidi Sumpter	5/22	Sue Thompson
5/6	Andrew Shockey	5/23	Sarah Sandquist
5/7	Gloria Grant		Marv Zimmermann
5/8	Isaac Friedman	5/26	Ben Breuer
	Ryan Jolivette		Claire Breuer
5/10	Amy Kubik	5/28	Coleen Spain
5/12	Lane Rose	5/29	Madison Marvelli
5/13	Ben Lampe	5/31	Makala Burton
5/14	Janice Olson		Stevie Eggers
5/15	Sara Shockey		Andrew Weiland



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 3— Troen
May 10— Good Cheer Class
May 17—
May 24— Monroe
May 31—

Fellowship

May 3— Peters
May 10—
May 17— Goos
May 24—
May 31— Sandquist

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



Thank You

Thank you to EVERYONE for donating cookies, making potato salad and helped in anyway at the Community Meal at First Lutheran April 22. It was really appreciated.

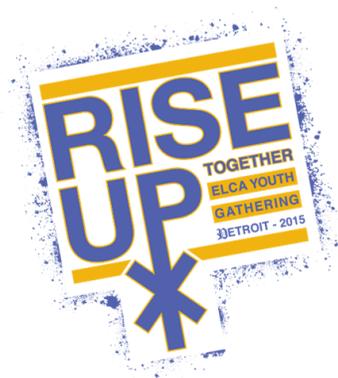
Marlys Amundsen

Thank you to all who donated during the Lenten season. A total of \$276 was raised to help members go to camp this summer. Thanks for supporting your church family at First Lutheran.

The ELCA Youth Gathering group would like to say **THANK YOU** to all that donated to our trip in March. We raised \$4734.86! And the best part is Chris does not get a pie in the face. **THANK YOU** also we appreciate the \$264.86 you gave as free will offering during the Easter breakfast.

We are nearing our goal of \$7000, so keep you eyes open for more fun ways to support the youth.

Again thank you very much for your generosity.
Andrew, Anna C, Anna F, Devon, Isaac, Lizzy, Victoria, Robyn, and Chris



Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANKS



THANK YOU to the people that helped with our April Wednesday Night Community Dinner! Our next dinner is scheduled on May 27th. Please watch for the sign up sheets in the narthex and join us to continue this very important community service.

Will You Help Usher at Church?

Ushers help the church service run smoothly and on time, so having a full staff of ushers on a regular basis is a quietly important aspect of our service. Would you be able to help one Sunday a month? Please contact the office. If you can help occasionally, please talk with one of the ushers when you come in to church to offer your assistance.

Or Run the Slideshow?

If you would like to help run the slideshows for announcements and service by advancing the screens in time with the service, please contact the church office.

Meals on Wheels in May

First Lutheran will again be delivering meals on weekends in May. It is very rewarding as the people are so thankful for what you do. We pick up the meals from Skiff at 11:00 a.m. It takes about 90 minutes on Saturday and Sunday. If you could commit to only one day that would be fine. We would be happy to pair mentors with folks who have not done this before, so come try something new, no experience is necessary.

Please contact Sarah Sandquist at (792-7702) if you have questions or could help out.

Pie in Your Face Day

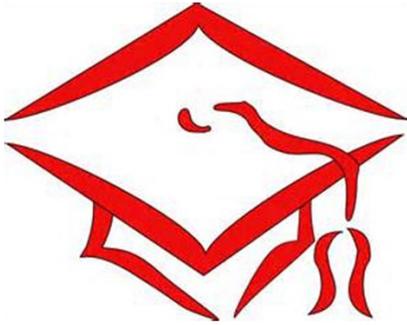
Sunday, May 17th will be our first ever "**Pie in Your Face Day**" at First Lutheran Church. After our congregational meeting that morning, we would like to invite all ages of our congregation to take part in the youth sponsored "Pie in Your Face Day." This will be the time that Pastor Zach gets his earned Pie in the Face after losing the "men vs. women" coin challenge put on by the 7 youth attending the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Detroit this July. The team of youth headed to the Youth Gathering is taking bids from individuals interested in being the actual person who gets to throw the pie in the face of Pastor Zach. There will be bidding sheets in the narthex each Sunday, leading up to the 17th for those interested in participating. If you win the bid, you can choose to throw the pie yourself, or can designate someone else to do the job for you.

In addition to Pastor Zach getting a pie in the face, there will also be opportunities to throw pies in the faces of others. For a price of at least \$25, you can choose someone ELSE to have a pie thrown in THEIR face. If you are nervous about getting chosen for such an activity, there is the opportunity to "buy your way out." The "immunity cost" that will keep you safe from any pies in your face is a mere \$100. You can pay this in advance, or can pay it that morning if someone pays their \$25 and chooses to throw a pie at you. There will be a sign-up sheet and a basket in the narthex each Sunday leading up the 17th for those that wish to make advance purchases OR purchase an advance immunity from the pie throwing. To assure that this a "friendly" pie throwing event, there will be ground rules that require gentle throws with no surprise throws, and the "pies" will be merely soft whip cream on a paper plate, so it will be tasty and fairly soft. There will be trash bags available to cover your clothing if you do not want whip cream decorating your outfit, as well. The intention is for this event to be silly, funny and friendly in nature. Plus, the pictures will be great fun!

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for June 15-19 from 9-12 noon for our annual Vacation Bible School! Our theme this year is Everest and it looks to be a mountain of 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 pre-school through 6th grade. Kids just finishing 6th grade through high school are greatly appreciated as Junior Helpers that week, as well! A registration form is in the newsletter and will be available at the office and in the narthex through May and June.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!



**ABBY JOLIVETTE
ANDREW LAMMEY
CHRISTIAN LAUBE
NICK MCVEY
TRISTAN PETERS**

May Choices in Mission: Empower Tanzania

Empower Tanzania works in partnership with rural Tanzanians to improve their quality of life. We address the underlying issues that hinder resiliency in rural areas, such as health care, education, agricultural practices, markets for products, and the poor quality and lack of water. Finding sustainable answers to rural development challenges requires working together with communities to create a vision and a long-term commitment beyond the life of a project. Empower Tanzania pursues this approach through all we do.



Empower Tanzania is a Non-Government Organization, based out of Ames, Iowa. We have a volunteer Board of Directors and a group of incredible individuals working on committees and leading projects, as well as donating services and expertise. Without these dedicated people, nothing we do would be possible. In addition to our excellent volunteers, we have staff in both the U.S. and Tanzania working to maximize our impact.

Together, we make a difference!

HOPE: Relay for Life

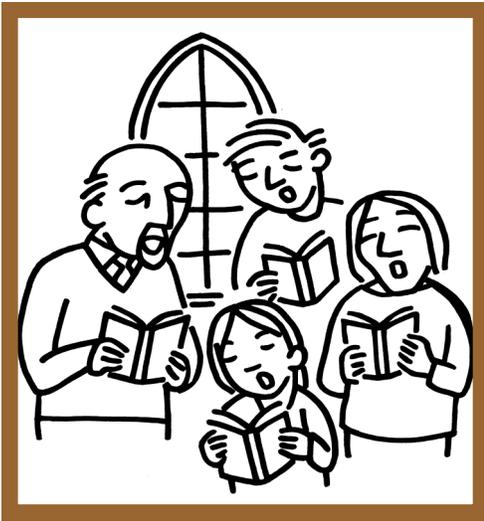


In support of our annual American Cancer Society Jasper County Relay for Life, I will be in the narthex May 17, 24 and 31 to accept donations and sell luminaries in honor of survivors or in memory of loved ones who lost the battle against cancer. The event takes place at the stadium on Friday, June 5th from 6 to 11 pm. Come on out for a memorable way to help stay well, help get well, help find a cure and help fight back through advocacy.

Dot Logan

Prayer Corner

Please pray for all of our families, friends and church family. Pray for all mothers, those wishing to be mothers and those in mothering roles. Pray for God's guidance for all graduating students as they take what they have learned and embark on the next step of their journey. Pray for God's grace, guidance, and love to prevail during our visioning meetings. May willing hearts be prepared to commit to bold action for what-ever and where-ever the church feels God is calling, near or far. Please continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world.



Choir Practice
May 6 & May 13

Sing on May 17
Last time before Summer break!

Summer Services

Saturday service will be added at 5:30pm for June, July and August starting June 6th and running until August 29th. This shorter service will be held in the Fellowship hall. Please join us as your schedule allows.

A Healing Service

First Lutheran will hold a healing service on Sunday, May 31st.

VBS REGISTRATION FORM June 15-19, 2015 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 _____



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.