

# SEPTEMBER

**First Lutheran Church,  
Newton IA**

**2016**

## **First Epistle**

From the Pastor...

*The Old Story for a New Day*

This month we once again begin the Narrative Lectionary cycle. This year we will focus our attention on Jesus' life as told in the Gospel According to Luke. Once again our year begins by following the ancient story of God's interactions with the people of Israel as found in the First Testament. We will hear stories of creation and calling, sending and running away. We will see God's people succeed; we will see them fail. We will witness them follow God's call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8) and we will witness God's beloved people utterly fail. We will feel the uncomfortable heat when God's righteous anger flares; and the warm embrace of the compassionate Parent who eternally loves. God's plans for creation will change and develop. God will try things that don't work and eventually settle on entering our story in the flesh in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

In the story of Jesus we will marvel at the remarkable powers of healing. We will stand in wonder as the story unfolds—we will see successes and failures. Jesus will weep and he will celebrate. He will be attacked by opponents and he will pick fights with adversaries. And yet, we will participate with Jesus as he always moves forward with an eye on new life. Jesus' ministry will focus on bringing revitalization to God's people by changing their focus from themselves to that of others. The Jesus we see in Luke's gospel will challenge us to reexamine our behaviors and humbly seek in God's arms transformation and rebirth.

This rebirth, this new life promised by Jesus necessitates that we let old perspectives die. The new beginning in Christ, once again promised, requires that we allow our desires to be subsumed by God's desires for us. Resurrection is promised and, like Jesus, resurrection occurs only after death. Jesus calls us to take up our cross following him, to willingly allow the grave to kill off those parts of us that do not fit in the kingdom of God, to open our hearts and minds and bodies to the new way of living that God is pouring into us through Christ so that we may bear fresh fruit for the sake of the world.

As we begin to tell this old story once again, as we hear God's story in these new days, I invite you all to reexamine your lives. Where is God pruning? Where is God trimming away? Where is God hacking off? And where is God nurturing growth and new life? Where is God offering forgiveness and reconciliation? The death and new life cannot be separated; they go hand-in-hand. The process of resurrection is rarely a pleasant one, nonetheless it promises wondrous blessing for the sake of the whole world. What is God doing in you to bring new life? Will you let God do God's work? These will be the questions we ask as we walk through yet another year of proclaiming an old but refreshing story.

I challenge you to listen with fresh ears to God's story. God is doing a new thing with the words of these ancient stories. You are a part of that new thing. How is God working in you?

Trying to let God work in me,  
Pastor Zach

**Sunday Worship**  
9:30 a.m.

**Sunday Fellowship**  
10:30 a.m.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## First Evangelical Lutheran Church

309 E. 3rd St. N.,

Newton, IA 50208

Phone: 641-792-3934

Fax: 641-792-3937

Email:

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

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### Pastor Zach Bey

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641-791-7796

### President

Julie Laube

jlaube68@gmail.com

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### Vice President

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641-831-5555

### Secretary

Katie Cantu

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641-840-2750

### Treasurer

Kristi Cummins

luthtreasurer@iowatelecom.net

641-275-9203

### Administrative Assistant

Kellie Kramer

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

641-792-3934

### Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

9:00-Noon

or by appointment

## First Sunday Potlucks at First Lutheran will return On October 2nd!

**School is back in session and fall will soon be on it's way. First Lutheran is ready to return to our First Sunday Potlucks! We will still need hosts for the potlucks in October thru December, so sign up in the fellowship hall.**

Hosts make the drinks here at church and help get things started. Everyone that can (and can remember) brings a dish and after prayer everyone grabs a plate and goes through the line. Sit with the usual crew or eat with those you don't know well and make new friends.

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 September, canned meat and fish have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

### Chancel Flowers

Sept. 4th— garden flowers

Sept. 11th—

Sept. 18th—

Sept. 25th—

### Fellowship

Sept. 4th— Amundsen

Sept. 11th—

Sept. 18th—

Sept. 25th—

**Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.**



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|------|-------------------|------|---------------------|
| 9/2  | Connie Lucas      | 9/12 | Belinda Birkenholtz |
|      | Mary Obersteller  | 9/15 | Leroy Hesse         |
| 9/5  | Garrett Frehse    |      | Jim Lammey          |
|      | LaVona Thorsen    | 9/16 | Sherry Jensen       |
| 9/8  | Bryce Grabe       |      | Victor Klopping Jr. |
| 9/9  | Patty Balk        | 9/18 | Josh Cantu          |
|      | Morgan Frehse     |      | Ron Shockey         |
| 9/10 | Brian Baumgartner | 9/20 | Rex Thompson        |
| 9/11 | Kent Leckband     | 9/23 | Tristan Peters      |
|      | Michael Reick     | 9/24 | Tyler Reick         |

**Thank you** to everyone who attended and helped and participated in the service or games at the Downtown Worship and Block Party on August 28th! It was great to worship with our neighbors in Christ!



**Thank you** to everyone who donated to the First Lutheran School Supply Drive in August! Many will benefit from our efforts.

- Trivent Action Team

### 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 **September 28th back at the First United Methodist Church**. Please join us again to continue this very important community service. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.



## **Dinner for 8 news:**

If you have enjoyed Dinner for 8 and are looking for a way to be involved at First, perhaps you could consider being the Dinner for 8 point-of-contact. It's been a well-received addition to First's fellowship this past year and is waiting for someone like YOU to keep it going. Jodi Morgan-Peters will help get you started (it won't take long) and pass along all of her information. Please contact her at (515) 710-9544 or email her at quincemama@gmail.com if you're feeling called to serve in this way.

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## **Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers—Fall Book Study**

Explore what it means to be Lutheran, Thursdays 6-7pm starting Sept. 15th.

Contact the office to reserve your book.

792-3934 or office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

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## **Calling all 7th and 8th Graders:**

**Confirmation** classes start again on

**Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m.**

Get ready for another year of learning and claiming the promises of your baptism for yourself.

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## **Calling all Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers:**

Downtown Youth Group

Starts again on

Sunday, September 11

6:00—8:00 p.m.

At First United Methodist Church

Pizza and refreshments

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## **Prayer Corner**

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the orderly routines that come back to our lives as summer turns into fall. Help to adjust to these routines and be grateful for what ever season of our lives that they represent. Help us to look prayerfully at new challenges that are presented to us as opportunities you are giving us to learn and grow. Help us to share our strengths with others and ask others to help us with their strengths knowing we can do more together than we can ever do alone. Help us work as one people, united in your name. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

**Women of the ELCA  
Cluster 2 Fall Gathering  
Saturday, October 1, 2016**



**Elim Lutheran Church  
302 W. Church Street  
Marshalltown, Iowa  
641-752-4213**



**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost \$5.00.**

***Growing in Grace* is the theme for the Fall Gathering.**

Theme Bible verse is 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen"

Rachel Monroe will be our program speaker. She was a teenager when she made her first trip to Tanzania. She went in 2008, with a group from her church in Newton to work on a medical center that was being built. Rachel will be sharing thoughts about her trip and hopes to return to Tanzania. We will see that she has *Grown in Grace*.

Some of the other agenda items include Bible study around the theme verse, business meeting, coffee time, offering, and more.

A portion of the offering will go to International Health Partners Ministry, the medical center that Rachel visited on her trip.

For more information contact Pat Kolpin at  
[P.KOLPIN@MCHSI.COM](mailto:P.KOLPIN@MCHSI.COM) or 641-750-6661



## **Sympathy notice for former member:**

Chuck Benning has passed away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 21st.

Wanda's address is: Wanda Benning  
Pleasant Creek Campground #2  
4530 McIntosh Road  
Palo, IA 52324

Memorials may be sent to: Hospice of Mercy  
Mercy Medical Center Foundation  
701 10th St. SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

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## **Associate for Communication, Office of the Bishop**

The Southeastern Iowa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is seeking a communications professional to work in the Office of the Bishop, located in Iowa City, Iowa.

The Associate for Communications will create and implement a strategy to ensure timely, effective, and informative communication between the Office of the Bishop and ministry partners and other target audiences within and beyond the Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA. This position is 40+ hours per week and includes benefits.

A detailed [position description](#) and employment application can be found at the synod website. Questions may be directed to Pr. Eric Carlson, [carlson@seiasynod.org](mailto:carlson@seiasynod.org)

Application Deadline: September 20, 2016



# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship</i>	5 <b>Labor Day Office Closed</b>	6	7 <i>6:00 Property</i>	8 <i>1:30 Good Cheer</i>	9	10
11 <i>9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 6-8 Youth Downtown</i>	12 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	13	14 <i>6:30 Confirmation</i>	15 <i>6:00 Book Study</i>	16	17
18 <i>9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 6-8 Youth Downtown</i>	19 <i>5:00 Bible Study <b>Newsletter articles due</b></i>	20 <i>6:00 Council</i>	21 <i>9:00 Lois 1:00 Martha 6:30 Confirmation</i>	22 <i>6:00 Book Study</i>	23	24
25 <i>9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 6-8 Youth Downtown</i>	26 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	27 <i>9am Dorcas</i>	28 <i>5:30 Community Dinner 6:30 Confirmation</i>	29 <i>6:00 Book Study</i>	30	

## September Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
September 4th	Anna VanDam, Mae VanDam	Pat Foote	Pat & Steve Putz	Marie Quanbeck	Dave Troen, Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	David Goos
September 11th	Isaac Friedman, Anna Coyle	Steve Putz	Carolyn Kirchhoff, Dottie Mittelstadt	Marlys Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Barthol- mey, Dennis Porter	Matt Coyle
September 18th	Brock Jordan, Thomas Hodnett	Rex Thompson	Mark & Judy Monroe	Bethany Baumgartner	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	
September 25th	Lane Rose,	Julie Laube	Bob & Sarah Sandquist	Dirk Amundsen	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey, Tom Sharp	

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**Calling all Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers:**

Downtown Youth Group

Starts again on

Sunday, September 11

6:00—8:00 p.m.

At our neighbors: First United Methodist Church

Pizza and refreshments

**Open to all youth who want to attend!**