



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2017

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

Easter and Good-bye

“My time is almost through, little left to do . . .” Jesus sings those words during the Gethsemane scene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Yet the words fit me now as well. Of course Jesus was speaking of his lifelong plan following God’s call on his life toward death and ultimately resurrection, and my life now is not anywhere near as magnificent or salvific. Nevertheless there is a kind of death we are going through and an anticipation for something new to come. Our relationship as pastor and congregation is coming to an end. As Jesus prays in the garden, you can hear the concern, the anxiety, the uncertainty. What is coming next? Will it work out? Will I have the strength to follow through? And what does this all mean? If I do go through with this, will I be so broken as to be unfixable? “Take this cup away from me,” is such a simple phrase and yet the depth of meaning and emotion is palpable.

I don’t know what’s going to happen. I don’t know what my next chapter will be. Nor can I say what will happen at First Lutheran once I’ve departed. In the midst of this uncertainty, fear, and confusion we have but one course of action. It is the same action Jesus followed upon standing up after his prayer in the garden. We trust God and we move as God is calling. We don’t know where God is taking us; we don’t know how God will get us there; we expect there will be hardship, struggle, pain, and endings. And yet, we also trust that after the cross comes Easter. After Good Friday, and the deathly waiting that accompanies Holy Saturday, comes the wonder and amazement of the empty tomb and Jesus’ resurrection life, Jesus’ new life.

As we replay the events of Jesus’ death and resurrection this Lent and Easter season, we trust that the same resurrection power that brings new life to our Lord will infuse us as we continue where the Spirit drives us. And that power will bring to us new vision, new focus, and new strength as we discover to what and where God is calling us. Trust in the renewing power of God.

It is nearly time for me to say good-bye. As for me, this will not be an easy good-bye. I will be filled with overwhelming emotion. Tears will be spilled. I will experience a hollowness inside my soul. Maybe you will too. My life will look different. My life will change. I will have to get used to not being a pastor of a congregation. Still, the promise of God’s presence will be true. God will be with me, guiding and challenging me. Life here at First Lutheran will also look different, feel different, be different. And God’s presence will be here too.

As I prepare to depart, I remind you all to trust in God’s Spirit in this place. Allow God’s Spirit to reknit broken relationships. Listen as God moves to repair broken systems. With the Spirit of God, see the world in a new way, do not be afraid of the coming uncertainty. Rather, embrace it, listening to God’s word as you move forward.

Jesus died and rose again to bring salvation. Jesus died and rose again to bring transformation of our lives for the sake of the world. Jesus died and rose again to bring new life, new perspective, now possibilities in each chapter of our lives. Peace be with you all. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Zach

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Potluck in April Is on the 2nd!

Come in out of the (likely) rain! Join us after service in the fellowship hall for our monthly First Sunday Potluck. Hope to see you there!

Saturday, April 1st is the
Spring Gathering
For Cluster 2 of the Women of the ELCA
At St. Paul's Lutheran church in Tama

Guest Speaker Katherine Bly will be
discussing Human Trafficking

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 April, laundry detergent and dish soap have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

April 2 —
April 9 — Palms
April 16 — Easter Lilies
April 23 —
April 30 —

Fellowship

April 2 — Potluck
April 9 —
April 16 — Easter breakfast
April 23 — Council
April 30 —

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



4/3	Brayden Geilenfeldt	4/16	Carter Smith
4/7	Nathan Odland	4/17	Emily Cantu
4/8	Olivia Johnson	4/19	Lynette Birkenholz
	Connie Zimmermann	4/20	Landon Karsten
4/9	Stan Kirchhoff	4/23	Gregory Forsyth
	Judy Monroe		Marilyn Main
4/11	Chas Allen	4/27	Andrew George
	Lexi Frehse	4/28	Nathan Lampe
4/12	Christina Thompson	4/30	Janelle Karsten
4/13	Dirk Amundsen		Jennifer Sumpter

Kay Hesse and family are extending a very warm Thank You to our church for all their loving support in presence, memorials, food, cards, visits and loving hugs! God Bless

I want to thank my First Lutheran family for the support, prayers, and trips to treatment during my recent bout with cancer. I'm cancer free!
Gary Johnson



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 March 22nd and 29th 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!

Zinga Update!

Paula and Denny's fund-raising trip in the US is coming to an end, as they prepare to depart for Tanzania Tuesday, March 28. We wish them safari njema—a good journey!

Meanwhile, work is progressing at Zinga, with more patients being seen daily. Head nurse Miriam Mugo writes:

“A six-month-old boy was brought in the hospital yesterday in the afternoon hours by his mother and father. The little boy was distressed and couldn't stop crying, wasn't breastfeeding had a very high fever and difficulty breathing. This was so heart-breaking and stressful to the Mum who couldn't resist shedding tears over her young one.

We immediately took the baby to the emergency room where we began immediate care. With the help and support of the available medical services and personnel we were able to bring back the child to life. He was discharged after 3 hours of close observation with great improvement. Thanks to all of you donating towards health through IHP.”

She then adds she wishes the hospital would be able to offer 24/7 care. That day will come, Miriam!

Construction on the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center continues, all on Tanzania Time!

Paula notes that six months of travel and 47 presentations are coming to a close. Their last presentation is just two days before this tireless couple returns to Tanzania. She and Denny are looking forward to hosting the teams that are scheduled to arrive this summer. To quote Paula, “For two senior citizens, this is a very good, very blessed life.” Hats off to those who choose to serve!

Thanks again for your support of this ministry. Keep the Children's Hospital at Zinga and all who work there in your prayers.

For the Tanzania Mission group,
Marie Quanbeck
641-521-4410

2017

**LENTEN
SCHEDULE**

April 5

Our Story—Discipleship

April 9

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13

Maundy Thursday

April 14

Good Friday

April 16

Easter

Easter Plans Set for Sunday, April 16

Plans have now been made for the celebration of Easter at First Lutheran Church on Sunday April 16. It will begin with a time to interact at the Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, being served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. The meal will consist of egg bake, coffee cake, fresh fruit and various beverages. Several of the youth of the Church will be helping make this an event which glorifies God. At 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of the Church, a solemn time of prayer and contemplation will begin. A prayer list will be available, and if you have someone or something you would like to add to it please let Kellie Kramer in the office know by Wednesday, April 12th. You can contact her by phone at 792-3934 or by email at kellie@newtonfirstlutheran.org. This time of prayer will continue until 9:25 a.m. at which time it will be silent. At 9:30 a.m. we will begin our Easter Church Service including the procession of the lilies, full communion, and two songs performed by the choir. Easter invitations are available in the narthex of the Church, and you are encouraged to invite others to join us on this joyous day!

Easter Breakfast- Fellowship Hall	8:00 am to 9:15 am
Contemplation and Prayer – Sanctuary	9:00 am to 9:25 am
Easter Services	9:30 am to 10:30 am

Reminder: There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Personal Contacts Planned for this Spring

An outreach group, consisting of 14 members of First Lutheran, plans to meet with everyone who has been a part of our church family for the last couple of years. Those involved in this effort include Terri Hayden, Judy Monroe, Craig Peterson, Jayne Goos, Deb Rose, Duane Quanbeck, Pat Foote, Al Orsund, David Goos, Art Cooper, Stan Kirchhoff, Jane Odland, Ramona Cooper, and Julie Laube. Working in pairs, these people will be contacting you during the next 12 weeks to find a time to meet and visit for 30 to 45 minutes. The goals of these contacts include getting to know each other better, gathering accurate contact information, improving the flow of communication within First Lutheran, and learning more about people's passions and visions for the Church. Thank you in advance for taking the time to be a part of this process.

Good Friday Cross Walk

Once again Newton's downtown churches are working with Mission Coalition on this year's Way of the Cross walk to mark Good Friday. All are welcome on **Friday, April 14th at 12:00 noon** beginning at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Walkers are asked to participate in as much or as little of the walk as their schedule allows. If you would like to participate as a reader or cross carrier for First Lutheran, please contact Sarah Sandquist.



Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Dear Lord, the month of April is often associated with lots of rain. Sometimes the dark days make us feel sad, depressed, lonely or grumpy. When this happens, remind us that your rain has many uses. Sometimes it comes with a fury that reminds us to prepare for challenges. Sometimes it's gentle rhythm helps bring us your peace as we go to sleep at night. It can also remind us of baptism, washing away the dirt and sin in our world and us and dampen the soil that we ask our hearts to be, while it awakens the seeds you have planted there and encourages them to new growth. Thank you for your rain God. Help us and help us to help others live into the new growth this spring. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

Easter Lilies

We plan to decorate the Sanctuary with Easter Lilies and invite your help in providing lily plants.

If you would like to order a lily, please complete the form below, attach your check, fold together, and place it in the offering plate. You may also mail or bring your check and order form to the church office.

You may pay with cash or a check payable to Hy-Vee Floral in the amount \$9.50 for each lily ordered. The deadline for turning in order and payment is Monday, April 10th.

Lilies may be taken home after the Easter Service.

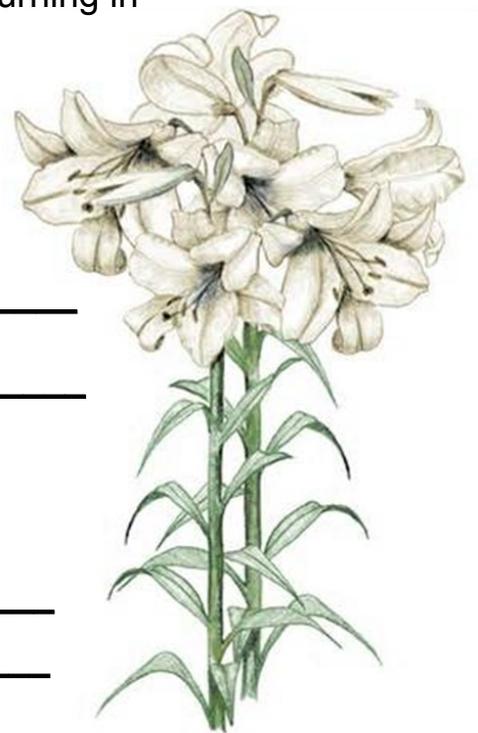
Name _____

Phone _____

Lily(s) _____ **\$9.50/each** (Check payable to Hy-Vee Floral)

Given in honor of _____

Given in memory of _____



April LSI Update

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 8,200 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2015. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services, and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2016, our Early Childhood programs served more than 1,000 families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

Finding Her Confidence

Melissa didn't know what to do. Her oldest daughter, Brianna, struggled with anger issues and Melissa felt she was losing control at home. She wanted to have a loving relationship with her daughter, and she was afraid of becoming the "stern parent."

She turned to LSI's Mental Health and Behavioral Health Intervention Services for help three years ago.

The services provide regular home visits and family meetings for Melissa and Brianna. Each week, Brianna's LSI team collaborates with her to find the coping skills she needs to thrive.

"We're trying positive reinforcement, we're practicing exercises like taking a pillow and screaming into it," Melissa says. "Instead of just yelling and screaming, we're finding an outlet for that anger."

Brianna is also learning to express herself through her favorite hobby: drawing. Melissa says her daughter is a visual learner, so the family is using art to help Brianna cope with her anger. Brianna loves her drawing exercises so much that she now wants to become an artist when she grows up.

Every step of the way, Melissa says she has felt empowered and supported by her LSI team.

"You get the positive support. As parents, you hear that you're doing a good job. You get that pat on the back when you're feeling defeated," she says. "Without these programs, our family would still be struggling. LSI gives you the tools you need."



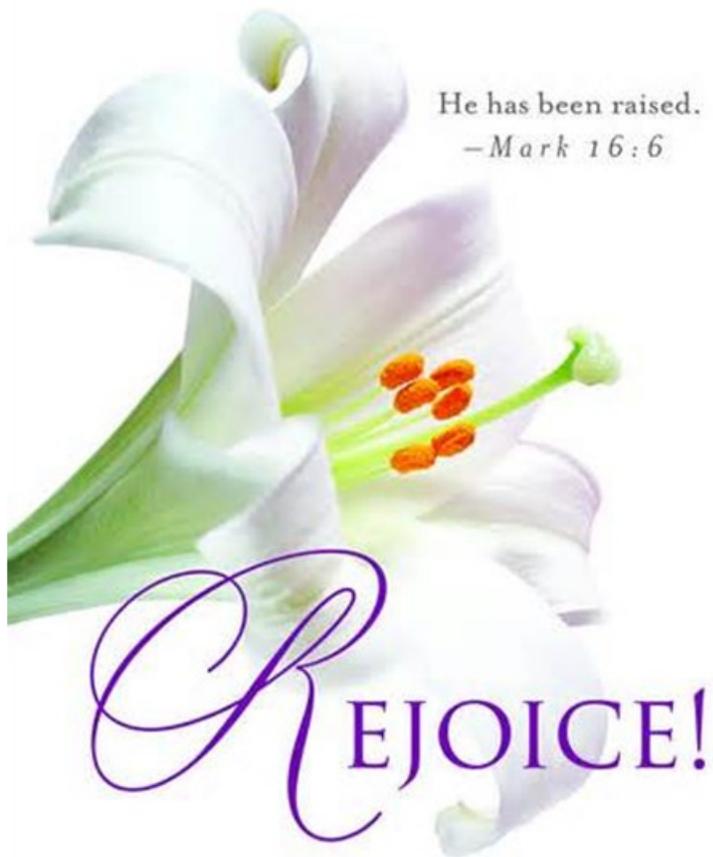
April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship 11:00 Potluck & Education	3 5:00 Bible Study	4	5 6:45 Lenten ser- vice	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education	10 5:00 Bible Study	11	12	13 Good Cheer 6:45 Maunday Thursday	14 6:45 Good Friday	15
16 EASTER 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education	17 5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due	18	19 9:00 Lois 1:00 Martha	20 6:00 Council 7:00 Eunice	21	22
23 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education	24 5:00 Bible Study	25 9:00 Dorcas	26 5:30 Community Dinner	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education						

April Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
April 2nd	Lane Rose	Art Cooper	Pat & Steve Putz	Jane Odland	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Deb Rose
April 9th Palm Sunday	Brock Jordan, Blake Baumgartner	David Goos		Bethany Baumgartner	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	
April 16th Easter	Blake Baumgartner, Thomas Hodnett, Mae VanDam	Judy Monroe		Bethany Baumgartner	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	
April 23rd	Leo Friedman, Isaac Friedman	Stan Kirchhoff		Marie Quanbeck	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	Duane Quanbeck
April 30th	Lane Rose	Al Orsund			Captians	

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



He has been raised.
—*Mark 16:6*

REJOICE!