



**First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA**

2018

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

2018 is upon us. Each time a new year arrives, people are always trying to envision what lies ahead... and to make a commitment to be a better person. Unfortunately, we don't know what the future holds for us, and so we approach this new year with a lot of mixed emotions. We are excited about the possibilities, but we are also concerned about the difficulties that will undoubtedly come our way.

It is surely a time when we, as a people of faith, need to give some careful attention to what we believe. Do we stand on the firm foundation of the Word of God, or are they just empty words? This past year was a difficult one for the First Lutheran Church family. Change and transition are never easy. But in spite of that, I continue to be amazed at the faith, hope, and love of this congregation as we continue to serve the ONE TRUE GOD.

My own faith has been strengthened because your faith is so strong. And I thank you for that! You truly believe that we can do ALL THINGS through HIM who strengthens us. (Yes! See Philippians 4:13) And so, we enter this new year with the faith that we will NEVER walk alone, and that God will give us the strength and courage to meet the challenges of this new year.

I can hardly wait to see and experience the many exciting things that God has planned for First Lutheran Church in 2018. May God continue to guide and direct us in all that we do, and may His richest blessings be with each of you in the new year!

Living in Gods Amazing Grace!
Pastor Mark

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 Mark Holmes
pastor@newtonfirstlutheran.org
515-321-4882

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

Vice President
Judy Monroe
mmonroe@pcpartner.net
641-792-4950

Secretary
Deb Rose
deborah.rose65@gmail.com
641-521-6415

Treasurer
David Goos
goos2104@iowatelecom.net
641-792-8818

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

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday & Thursday
1:00—5:00 p.m.
or by appointment

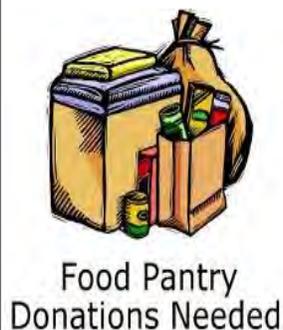
ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Potluck is January 7th!

Let's start the new year! It's time to take a breath after all the holiday festivities and some together with you church family to warm up and catch up on all the latest news.
See you there!



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. 7— Poinsettias
Jan. 14—
Jan. 21—
Jan. 28—

Fellowship

Jan. 7— Potluck
Jan. 14—
Jan. 21—
Jan. 28—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



- | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|
| 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 | | |

The Pipe Organ Fund

The gift of Christmas has arrived for our limping pipe organ! We have nearly enough money in the organ fund for Phase 1 of rebuilding our instrument. Council has voted to start the process. Brian Sullivan with Obermeyer Organ Company out of Burnsville, MN has given us the best bid for this work and will be here on January 8th to begin! Brian is the lead man on the project, so if you stop in to see the work, that is who you will meet. This phase will take the currently still functioning parts of our organ and fix and tune them. It should sound a lot better after this repair of about \$21,000 (bid based on what they find when they tear into it). Some handy folks from our congregation will be saving funds by doing some of the work as well.



Phase 2 is an additional \$36,900 and we have submitted a grant proposal to the Maytag Family Foundation (since this was a gift from Fred Maytag in the 30's) to request funding for it. This phase would bring our instrument up to 21st century standards with all new wiring and hooking up old pipes that presently are not attached, and making it much safer! If funded, the work will be done over the summer. How about a concert for our congregation anniversary?

How can you help? Money to the organ fund, of course, but we can also save by providing lunch to the crew starting on January 8. If you are willing to help with lunch, please let the office know and you will be contacted. Thanks!

Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners! Wednesday Night Community Dinners are at the Newton First United Methodist Church, southwest across the street from us, and our next meal is on the 24th. **Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.**



2018 Offering Envelopes

2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex. Please look for your name. If you did not receive envelopes but would like them, please notify the office 792-3934. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On Sunday, December 3, the youth group took a field trip to Hy-Vee to go shopping for the food pantry. We teamed up with Craig & Betty Petersen and Duane Quanbeck, passed out shopping lists, and put our budgeting and math skills to the test. We had \$158 in donations from church members and another \$250 from Thrivent, and were able to fill up three carts with groceries. All told, we purchased over 400 items, including 61 cans of vegetables, 77 cans of fruit, 29 boxes of pasta, 41 cans of pasta sauce, 47 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 67 cans of soup, and more! The checkers at Hy-Vee called in reinforcements and teamed up to get us through the line as quickly as possible. A big thank you to those who came to shop and to everyone who donated to the cause!



Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the gift of a new year. As we make out our goals for the year let us spend time in prayer asking God for His guidance and His dreams for the time ahead of us. Each day He gives us is a gift. It is an invitation to start again our work in the world with the Lord. When we seek the Lord, what thoughts, what areas of our world press on our heart and mind. What work does the Lord want us to join Him in, both individually and together? Lord, may we seek your guidance always and explore the work and treasures you set before us. In the name of Jesus, we love and follow. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

We Met Our Match... for the Building Fund!

During the month of December a generous member of the congregation agreed to match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000, all gifts made to the Building Support Fund before December 31st. We were up for the challenge! At the end of the month we had met the full match with donations to the Building Fund totaling \$5557!

This is great news for doing some upgrading and repairs for our building in a big anniversary year for our congregation. Thanks to you!

Poinsettias for First Lutheran were provided by:

Marlys & Dirk Amundsen – in honor of our parents and brothers.

Jim & Marjie Baker – in memory of our parents, Marion & Bill Baker, Margaret & Vic Noon.

Barbara Birkenholtz and family – in memory of Dean Birkenholtz.

Cantu Family – in memory of loved ones.

Art & Ramona Cooper – in memory of Bud & Marvel Cooper, Martin & Marie Vanden Hoek.

Bruce & Corinne Coyle – in honor of our children and grandchildren, and in memory of our parents, Kenneth & Maxine Stover and Bob Coyle.

Dennis & Arlene Dobesh – in memory of Elmer & Florence Dobesh, and Emil & Christena Neuharth.

Bob Floss – in memory of Judy Floss and our parents.

Pat Foote – in honor of my new granddaughter, Flacon Brinley Foote.

Andy & Evelyn George – in memory of IvaLou & Don George, and Alma Roth.

Jim & Gloria Grant – in honor of our children, grandchildren & 4 great grandchildren and in memory of Darla Swalwell, our daughter.

Tom, Terri, Connor, Neal Hayden – in memory of Bob Bullers and Tom Hayden.

Hal Herbold – in memory of Howard & Alice Herbold, and Glenn & Tudy Herbold.

Jane & Gary Johnson – in memory of Robert Bockwoldt, Jane's Dad.

Carolyn & Stan Kirchhoff – in honor of our grandchildren: John, Blake, Emma and Cooper.

Dotty Mittelstadt – in memory of Robert Mittelstadt.

Sharon Petersma – in memory of Del Petersma.

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

Dennis & Vicki Porter – in loving memory of our parents, Ed and Velma Pederson, and George & Janet Porter.

Duane & Marie Quanbeck – In honor of Dr. Denny & Paula Lofstrom and all those doing the Lord's work at the Children's Hospital, Zinga.

Bob & Sarah Sandquist – In honor of our children & grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Tom & Ruth Sharp – in memory of our parents.

Colleen Spain – in memory of Bob Spain.

Candy Thompson – in memory of Margaret, Paul and Debbie Thompson.

Terry & Carol VeVerka – in memory of Ruth Filson.

Marv & Connie Zimmermann – in honor of our parents, Agnus & Rufus Zimmermann, and Gordon & Elma West.

January LSI Update

Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Friendly Competition

When the time came to take their U.S. Citizenship Exam, Bhakti and Chhali felt overwhelmed.

Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

LSI's Refugee Community Services were there to help. LSI provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Bhakti and Chhali studied hard in class to prepare for the writing and reading component of their exam. They supported and competed with each other, pushing themselves to succeed.

Their work paid off, and Bhakti and Chhali recently passed their exam and are now U.S. Citizens.

"We appreciate the help our LSI volunteers gave us on the Citizenship Exam," Bhakti says. "They are so committed to seeing us meet our goals."

Thank you for empowering your Iowa neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you!



January 2018

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

January Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
January 7th	Thomas Hodnett	Pat Foote	Pat & Steve Putz	Marlys Amundsen	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Don Monroe
January 14th	Blake Baumgartner	Deb Rose		Bethany Baumgartner	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	Duane Quanbeck
January 21st	Lane Rose	Art Cooper		Dirk Amundsen	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	
January 28th	Brock Jordan	Krista Baumgartner		Marie Quanbeck	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	

Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!



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