



**First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA**

2018

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

In his short story, "Somebody's Son", Richard Pindell describes the homecoming of a runaway boy named David. David wrote his mother, asking if his father would accept him home again. And if he would accept him back, David asked if his father would tie a white cloth to the apple tree in the field next to their house.

As David is on the train going home... he knows that very soon the train will go around the final bend and the apple tree will be visible. But he is so apprehensive that he turns to a stranger and asks him to watch for the white cloth hanging in the apple tree.

David does not look. Finally, the stranger says in surprise, "Are you kidding? There's a white cloth tied to almost every branch on the tree!" Scripture tells us that our God is that same kind of loving parent... reminding each and everyone of us in BIG ways that we are always welcome to come home again!!!

Our Lenten season this year begins with an Ash Wednesday service on February 14th. Lent is a special time when we try to see and appreciate the many signs of God's love. God shows the depth of His love for us... not by taking our suffering away... but by suffering with us.

As we look at the cross, we are reminded that Jesus carries the burden of ALL human pain. And he invites us to carry that burden with Him in the assurance of His promise: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30)

During this Lenten season, my prayer is that you will discover this great and glorious love that God has for each of us... a love so great that He sacrificed the life of His only Son. And as you discover the fullness of this love... may you be moved to share this perfect love of God with all the world!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Pancake Breakfast February 11th!

Come and join us for a pancake breakfast before church! If you are loaning kitchen ware, please bring it to the church by Saturday. If you are helping in the kitchen we will start getting ready at 7am on Sunday, and if you are coming to eat we will start serving at 8am through 9am. Please come and join in!



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 February, peanut butter and jelly have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Feb. 4— Poinsettias
Feb. 11—Zimmermann
Feb. 18—
Feb. 25—

Fellowship

Feb. 4— Byers, Mittlestadt,
Thompson, Kirchhoff
Feb. 11— **Pancake breakfast**
Feb. 18—
Feb. 25—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



2/4	Marlys Amundsen	2/15	Jayne Goos
2/5	Arthur Greve III		Terry VeVerka
2/10	Jane Johnson	2/16	Elaine Elliott
	Cole Smith	2/23	Bryan Friedman
2/11	Beverly Russell	2/27	Alex Anderson
2/12	Ing Benskin		Bethany Baumgartner
	Katie Cantu		Evelyn George
	Sarah Grunig		Ashlyn Karsten
2/14	Andrew Lamme		

Beverly Russell

will be celebrating her
**80th Birthday on
Sunday, February 11th**

Greetings & Wishes can be sent to:
Beverly Russell
c/o Tammy Ryther
2120 Canvasback Ct.
Marion, IA 52302



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 28th. **Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.**

2018 Lenten Services

Lenten services start with Ash Wednesday on February 14th at 7:00pm and follows each Wednesday till Holy Week with the theme "Were You There?" Join us as we enter into the thoughts and minds of six people who saw and knew Jesus Christ during His ministry on earth. Listen to their testimony and consider how their story might reflect your own story today.

Stewardship is Hip

A great big thank you to everyone for their stewardship efforts in 2017. The ministry of First Lutheran Church is alive and growing and with your efforts it will continue in 2018. Just a few of the highlights last year included:

- Easter breakfast prepared and served by the youth that generated \$388 which went to the Newton High School food pantry.
- Summer vacation Bible school which was held jointly with First Presbyterian Church and United Presbyterian Church.
- The Fourth of July parade float which was created with the hands of many people.
- Choices in missions projects like International Health Partners and God's Global Barnyard were both huge successes.
- The results of this year stewardship campaign saw an increase in estimated giving of a proximally 23%, which was just the amount We needed to have a balanced budget.

You see throughout the year people used their talents in a variety of different ways. They gave of their time, whether it was God's Work Our Hands trimming grass and delivering cookies, or caulking around the outside of the Church. People also gave of their treasure which allows our ministry to grow and make an impact. In 2018 we should also attempt to work on the other two T's of stewardship, tissue, which is our bodies, and trees which is the environment. As we plan for the year keep these things in mind so that we can incorporate more ways to be good stewards of all that God has given us.

Stewardship Committee

Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the love you have shown us in the gift of your son Jesus. We love because you first loved us and gave us the example of your love. Help us to show your love in our love, to show it in how we interact with the world. Help us to show our love tangibly in what we do for and in the world. Help us to love not just where it is expected, with our family and friends, but especially where it is unexpected, to strangers and in ways where we may not feel confident but we rely on the strength you give us to act through our discomfort. Lord, lead us to love, cherish and serve your world. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

Do You Have Questions About Adoption?

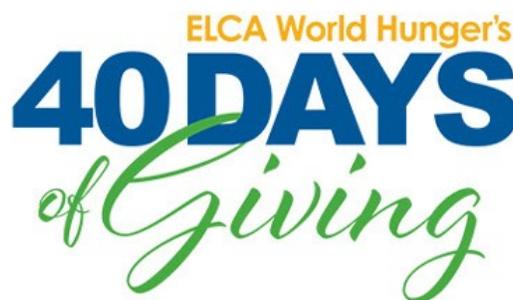
Are you called to be the answer to one of millions who live without the hope of being loved by a family? Bethany can partner with you to address this global crisis. Please join us for Discover Bethany on Saturday, February 10 from 1-3PM at Harvest Church in Cumming to hear about the joys and struggles of local international and domestic adoptive families, and come with your questions to hear honest answers. You bring your passion for children, and we'll bring our families and agency's expertise, integrity and high quality of service. Please call or email Bethany Christian Services if you have any questions or would like to RSVP (515.270.0824 or Igarland@bethany.org). You can also learn more at <https://www.bethany.org/des-moines/Meetings>.

ELCA 2018-19 YAGM applications

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program invites young adults ages 21-29 into a year of service, faith formation and relationship building in 11 country programs around the world. Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. As they offer themselves in service, young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. Check out ELCA.org/yagm for more information and apply now! Applications are due Feb. 15 for service beginning August 2018.

See a new side of ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving

Starting Feb. 14, ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving will once again offer congregations and ELCA members the opportunity to support and learn about ELCA World Hunger. This year's effort will lift up programs in India, Malawi and the United States that urgently need your support. Choose a program and walk alongside our neighbors as they address hunger in their communities. Join us!



Eyes Wide Open - Exposing Human Trafficking in our Communities

Hosted by Garden Gate Ranch Inc. and End Human Trafficking Now

Saturday, February 24 at 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

at 'The Way' 2306 S 3rd Ave E, Newton

Join us for a time of awareness, collaboration and activation. Keynote speakers include: frontline workers, a survivor, a survivor's mother, Mike Ferjak and local abolitionist workers. Register at EventBrite. For more information, visit: www.gardengateranch.com or <https://www.facebook.com/GardenGateRanch/>

February LSI Update

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. 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.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Healing through Harmony

Jaden doesn't have many memories of his father.

When Jaden was 5 years old, his father unexpectedly passed away. Now 14, Jaden has grown up without that loving connection. Through his grief, his connection to his mother became strained, and he struggled to manage his anger at home.

After being placed in LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, Jaden connected with LSI's Spiritual Life program. The voluntary program connects youth with faith-based art, music, and film. It serves as a safe space for children to open up about their emotions and get the support they need to thrive.

"Jaden is one of the few kids who would actively set up lunch appointments with me," says Pastor Dennis Bauer, who leads the program. "He's really benefitted from being able to talk during the day."

Having access to a support network and a trusting relationship with Pastor Dennis has helped Jaden feel empowered to make a positive change during his time at Bremwood. Jaden is finding his faith through music, and he's learning how to talk about his trauma and become a role model for other Iowa youth.

Jaden has now been adopted into a loving family. As he finishes up his treatment at Bremwood, his family visits frequently and worships with him, and Jaden is enjoying being a new big brother.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Flier courtesy of
First United Methodist Church

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	5 5:00 Bible Study	6	7 6:30 Property	8 Good Cheer 6:30 Council	9	10
11 8-9am Pancakes 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	12 5:00 Bible Study	13	14 7:00 Ash Wednesday	15 7:00 Eunice	16	17
18 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	19 5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due	20	21 9:30 Lois 1:00 Martha 7:00 Lent Service	22	23	24
25 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	26 5:00 Bible Study	27 9:00 Dorcas	28 5:30 Community Dinner 7:00 Lent Service			

February Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
February 4th	Claire Breuer, Hailey Sumpter	David Goos	Pat & Steve Putz	Marlys Amundsen	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Duane Quanbeck
February 11th	Leo Friedman	Judy Monroe		Dirk Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	Deb Rose
Ash Wednesday February 14th	Ben Breuer					
February 18th	Blake Baumgartner	Lynette Birkenholtz		Evelyn George	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	
February 25th	Thomas Hodnett	Andy Breuer		Marie Quanbeck	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	David Goos

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**For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son, so
that everyone who believes in
him may not perish but may
have eternal life.**

John 3:16

