



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2018

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

Coming out of church, Mrs. Peterson asked her husband, "Do you think that Simpson girl is coloring her hair?"

"I didn't even see her," admitted Mr. Peterson.

"And that dress Mrs. Hansen was wearing," continued Mrs. Peterson, "Now don't tell me you think that's the proper attire for a mother of two."

"I'm afraid I didn't notice that either," said Mr. Peterson.

"Oh, for heaven's sake," snapped Mrs. Peterson, "A lot of good it does for you to go to church!"

+ + + + + + +

It does A LOT of good for you to go to church. It is good to listen and respond to the Word of God... to hear God's people in praise and thanksgiving... to find comfort and support as we gather together as a family of God.

Sometimes life gets in the way and we don't always get to church like we want. That's okay. But we miss you when you can't be with us. My prayer is that you have already discovered the good that comes with regular church attendance. And if not... my prayer is that you will discover it! Come join us in fellowship and in worship; and discover the excitement that I have found in this place!
See you in church!

Living in Gods Amazing Grace!
Pastor Mark

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Fellowship 10:30 a.m.
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First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

1:00—5:00 p.m.

or by appointment

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Potluck will be Easter Breakfast!

We will skip the First Sunday potluck in April since we will be having Easter Breakfast instead. Breakfast will be served by parents and the youth of First Lutheran starting at 8:00am with some cold breakfast items (coffee cake and fruit) and coffee available directly after Sunrise Service. We hope to 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 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

Apr 1— Easter lilies

Apr 8—

Apr 15—

Apr 22—

Apr 29—

Fellowship

Apr 1— Easter breakfast

Apr 8— Hesse, Quanbeck

Apr 15—

Apr 22—

Apr 29—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

Happy Birthday

4/3	Brayden Geilenfeldt	4/16	Carol Ve Verka
4/8	Olivia Johnson	4/17	Emily Cantu
	Connie Zimmermann	4/19	Lynette Birkenholz
4/9	Stan Kirchhoff	4/20	Landon Karsten
	Judith Monroe	4/23	Marilyn Main
4/11	Lexi Frehse	4/27	Andrew George
4/13	Dirk Amundsen	4/30	Janelle Karsten
	Brynn Foster		Jennifer Sumpter
4/16	Carter Smith		



First Lutheran Welcomes Fourteen New Members

First Lutheran Church celebrated Palm Sunday on March 25 th and welcomed fourteen new members to the Congregation. From left to right starting in the front row are: Allison Engel, Carol VaVerka, Terry VaVerka, Hillary Klyn, Griffin Klyn, and Alex Klyn. Second row from left: Andrew Ketcham, Elizabeth Ketcham, Tiffany Ketcham, Emma-line Ketcham, Francis Togba, Loyeratta Nani, Jessica Lowe, and Erik Vokes.



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 25th. **Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.**

Zinga Update

With the arrival of the rainy season, it is hot and humid in Zinga, but the work goes on. The most recent update, posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, shows the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center with the roof completed and the exterior walls smoothed. Sele and his crew have made ventilation blocks for the top tier of the walls, and the building looks quite impressive. But much still remains before the building can be opened and babies can be delivered at the Children’s Hospital, Zinga.

In the meantime, we at First Lutheran have been busy creating postpartum personal hygiene kits for the women who will be delivering their babies at the hospital. The kits may also benefit women who have delivered elsewhere, perhaps at home, and seek outpatient postpartum care at Zinga.

A big thank-you to Judy and Mark Monroe for developing a prototype and cutting templates for the pieces, and for organizing two all-day workshops to get the task done. Twenty-one workers gave of their time and talents to mark fabric, cut, pin, and sew an impressive stack of kits, some even taking pieces home to sew. Thank you, all! Thanks also to the many who donated fabrics, thread, notions, and terrycloth towels for this project, and lent the use of your sewing machines. Without you, it could not have happened. The kits were destined for a shipping container in Independence, Missouri, scheduled to depart for Zinga on April 12, the day Paula and Denny Lofstrom fly back after their trip to spread the word about the Children’s Hospital at Zinga.

Paula notes in her update that the matching funds grant to provide an ambulance for the hospital has been extended until May 1. It is not too late to give! Something to consider, if you are able to support the project in this way.

Thank you for keeping the work at Zinga in your prayers. Thank you for supporting the work with your time and gifts. Pray for a safe trip back for Paula and Denny!

For our Tanzania mission,
Marie Quanbeck
641-521- 4410

Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for loving us so much! Thank you for giving us Jesus to save and teach us! Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us! Thank you for our current season of spring to remind us that renewal and growth are an on-going process. As You awaken the earth, also awaken in us places in our selves or lives that need a good spring cleaning or help us to work with you to foster new growth. As we trust and enjoy the changing season of spring, help us to bring that same attitude toward each changing season of our lives. 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.

Stewardship is Hip

As a society we are focused on achievements and success. We have huge parades when our team wins the Super Bowl or the World Series. For many of us success is based upon how much money we make and what our net worth is. As a former trust officer my career consisted of safeguarding assets, investing them wisely, and growing them for future needs. I worked with many people who were multi-millionaires who traveled and enjoyed the good life. So I asked myself the question, “is being wealthy a bad thing in the eyes of the Lord?” What I found was interesting. Wealth itself is not a bad thing, but there are 5 dangers that we must be aware of and here they are.

Danger 1 The desire to get rich – In this passage of the Bible we find a phrase that all of us have heard. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Eddie Tipton was the Iowa Lottery employee who figured out a way to fix the drawings so he and his friends could win large sums of money. How did that turn out? Well he is currently in prison and continues to face more charges which will likely keep him in prison for the rest of his life. Was it worth the risk?

I Timothy 6:10. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. Keeping the focus on providing for family and sharing our blessings with others through our giving are important to avoid this pitfall.

Danger 2 Worrying about money – Here Matthew tells us to have faith that God will provide and that we should not spend time worrying about money.

Matthew 6:25-34. 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life [a] ?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Danger 3 Trusting wealth rather than God – This is a danger that I can relate to. As a financial planner my job was to help people plan for a successful future, and that did not include prayer, but it should have. When we do not worry about where our next meal will come from, or where we will sleep for the night we start to believe that we

Continued on next page

have things under control. The truth is we don't. Our lives are in the hands of God and we can be called to heaven at any time, regardless of the planning we have done here on earth.

Luke 12:16-21. 16 And he told them a parable, saying, w “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, x ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my y barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up z for many years; relax, a eat, drink, be merry.” ’ 20 But God said to him, b ‘Fool! z This night c your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, d whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one e who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

We are so rich in comparison to the rest of the world that is difficult for us to understand what it is like to pray for our next meal, or about where will sleep that night. We need to understand that all that we have is God's.

Danger 4 Loving money as your God- In my opinion this danger takes danger number 3 to a new level, not only trusting in wealth, but making it our entire world and focus. Being a disciple of Jesus is not an easy path. I have heard it said that money will not buy happiness, but it will buy the things which make you happy. When we stay grounded in the fact that all which we have and obtain are blessings from God we know who the real master is.

Matthew 6:24. 24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Danger 5 Using your money to oppress other people – This danger made me think of a story about a country club in Oakland, California. On one side of the golf course was a project housing complex, (low income and not visually appealing). The members of the club decided they should plant trees and shrubs along the fence on that side of the course so they would not see these buildings. The residents however knew how beautiful the course was and they wanted to be able to see it from their windows. After a heated lawsuit the trees and shrubs were removed, and the view of the open land was theirs. There are two verses from the Bible that speak to this danger.

Isaiah 3:15 15 How dare you crush my people, grinding the faces of the poor into the dust?” demands the Lord, the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

James 2:5-8 5 Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? 6 But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? 7 Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus

Continued on next page

Christ, whose noble name [c] you bear? 8 Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [d]

What can we conclude from reviewing these dangers and going back to the original question of "is being wealthy a bad thing?" I think the answer is no, it is not a bad thing; however as the verse goes to whom much is given much is expected. God wants us to be happy and he wants us to enjoy the blessings he has given us but he also wants us be good stewards with those gifts. I think it can be very tempting to believe that we are in control and have enough money put away for anything that might come up. In reality all the money in the world can't buy eternal life, that is something only God can provide, and with this knowledge we can focus on the cross as the center of our lives and use our wealth to help others. The ministry of First Lutheran Church depends upon it.

David Goos, Stewardship Committee

Volunteers are needed for the Cloverton concert on April 22.

We need 6 physically able people 18 years of age or older for a load in and load out crew. It would be helpful it was the same 6 people for both, but doesn't have to be. You would need to be available at 1 p.m. to load in and after the concert (approximately 8:35 p.m). for load out.

We also need 2 vending volunteers, 18 years or older to work the merchandise table before, during, and after the performance. You would need to be available 45 minutes prior to the doors opening for a training meeting. That time would be 5:45 p.m.

Please let Deborah Rose if you would like to help out. Thanks.

Summer Clothing Drive

Neighbors Helping Neighbors summer clothing give away will be June 9. We need your help! As you sort your spring/summer clothing and make decisions not to keep something- please consider donating to this cause. Due to storage considerations we will start collecting clothing the final week of April. We can use clean clothing in good repair.

Please realize that we will throw away clothing that is not fit to be worn, and do not bring it to us. Everyone wants to look presentable. Do not bring winter clothing at this time.

You may bring the donations to First Lutheran Church office during office hours (8:30-12:30 M-F).

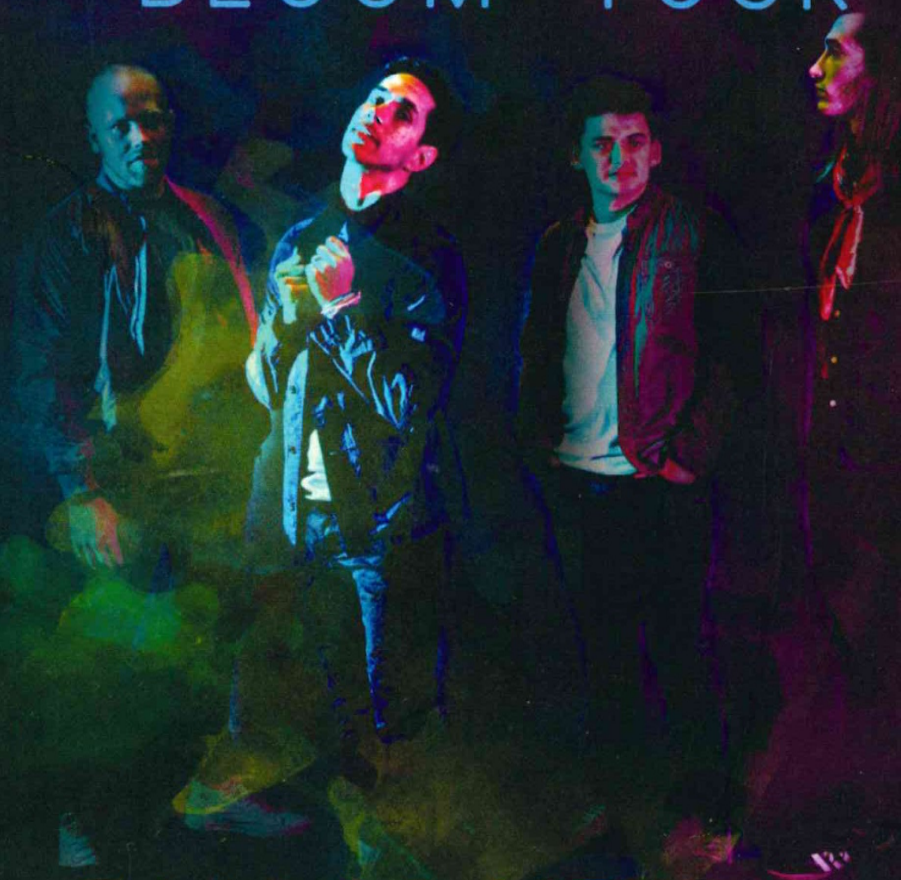
2018 LILIES

Given by:

Marlys & Dirk Amundson	In memory of our parents and brothers
Barb Birkenholtz & family	In memory of Dean Birkenholtz
Andy & Chrissy Breuer (3)	In honor of our children: Claire, Ben & Alex
Ben & Rosie Caldwell (2)	In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Caldwell
	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Pladsen
Art & Ramona Cooper	In memory of all our loved ones who have gone before us
Bruce & Corinne Coyle (2)	In honor of our children
	In memory of our parents: Kenneth & Mildred Stoves and Robert Coyle
Matt & Dianne Egenes	In memory of Lois & Paul Egenes
Bob Floss	In memory of Judy Floss and our parents
Pat Foote.	In memory of Richard Foote
Andy & Evelyn George (2)	In memory of Don & IvaLou George and
	In memory of Alma Roth
Jayne & David Goos (2)	In honor of our mothers Patricia Goos & Eunice Grube
	In memory of our fathers George Goos and Orin Grube
Gloria & Jim Grant	In honor of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, In memory of our daughter Darla Swalwell
Art Greve (2)	In honor of Jim & Mary Jo Greve
Ron Grunig	In memory of Roy & Gladys Grunig
Tom & Terri Hayden (2)	In memory of Bob Bullers, Tom Hayden
Hal Herbold (2)	In memory of Alice & Howard Herbold and
	In memory of Tudy & Glenn Herbold
Kay Hesse	In honor of all grandchildren and 1 great grandchild In loving memory of Lee Hesse
Jane & Gary Johnson	In memory of Jane's Aunt Ardell
Carolyn & Stan Kirchhoff	In honor of First Lutheran volunteers & workers
Jessica Lowe & Erik Vokes	In memory of Donna Dodson
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 (2)	In memory of our parents George & Janet Porter and
	In memory of our parents Edward & Velma Pedersen
Pat & Steve Putz (2)	To the glory of God
Duane & Marie Quanbeck (2)	To the glory of God
Deborah Rose & family	In honor of First Lutheran celebrating 150 years
Bob & Sarah Sandquist	In honor of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
Tom & Ruth Sharp	In memory of our parents
Colleen Spain & family	In memory of Bob Spain
Heidi Sumpter	In memory of Orval & Edna Hellekson
Lee & Judy Swenson (2)	In loving memory of our families
Candy Thompson	In memory of Margaret, Paul and Debbie Thompson
Laird & Julie Trusler	In memory of Judy Floss
Terry & Carol VeVerka	In honor of Ruth Filson & memory of Catherine Kennedy
Marv & Connie Zimmerman (2)	In memory of Andrew & Virginia Zimmerman

CLOVERTON

BLOOM TOUR



DMACC NEWTON CAMPUS AUDITORIUM

600 N 2ND AVENUE W NEWTON, IOWA

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

7PM

\$5 STUDENT (K-12)

\$10 ADULT

*TIX AVAILABLE AT EVENTBRITE.COM
-641-792-3934 (M-F 8:30-12:30)-

DOORS OPEN AT 630PM. ALL TICKETS ARE GENERAL ADMISSION.
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LOCAL YOUTH.

CALL 641-275-2335 FOR MORE DETAILS AND INFO.

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April LSI Update

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,892 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2016. 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, as well as mental and behavioral health treatment.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2017, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 15,000 in-home visits to families.

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 Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers 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!

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.

Building a Stronger Family

Stacy's daughter, Danikah, was a happy and playful toddler. But things began to change when her baby brother, Parker, was born. She was happy to see him in the hospital at first, but she struggled to adjust to a new child at home, especially when it came to sharing a room with Parker.

Stacy found LSI's New Parent Program shortly after Parker was born, and she hoped it could help her daughter adjust to the changes at home. The free, voluntary program provides support and education to families during and after pregnancy. Through the program, Stacy gets to meet other families in her community, and Danikah gets to interact with other children who have siblings.

Danikah is learning how other siblings share their toys and interact. Meanwhile, Stacy is learning to adjust to her children's developmental stages. Through the program, she has learned to potty train Danikah and manage her daughter's temper tantrums.

At home, Stacy and her children receive regular visits from their LSI team. Each week, the team brings creative new crafts Stacy can make from materials around the house. Danikah, now 5, is always eager to learn a new activity from her LSI worker during each visit. She's even starting to share her homemade toys with Parker.

"The program is fun for the kids, but you can also do things as a family," Stacy says. "You get that time with your child, and you're building a better relationship in the process."



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

Flier courtesy of
First United Methodist Church

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday 6:30 Sunrise Service 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship Service	2	3	4 <i>6:00 Property</i> <i>6:30 Confirmation</i>	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	9 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	10	11 <i>6:30 Confirmation</i>	12 Good Cheer <i>6:30 Council</i>	13	14
15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	16 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	17	18 9:30 Lois 1:00 Martha <i>6:30 Confirmation</i>	19 7:00 Eunice	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group 7pm Cloverton Concert @ DMACC auditorium	23 5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due this week	24 9:00 Dorcas	25 <i>5:30 Community Dinner</i> <i>6:30 Confirmation</i>	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	30 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>					

April Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Children's Message	Lector	Ushers	PA
Sunrise 6:30 Easter Sunday April 1st Celebration 9:30	9:30 Ben Breuer, Claire Breuer, Leo Friedman, Hailey Sumpter	9:30 Krista Baumgartner	9:30 Robyn Friedman, Rachel Monroe	Marlys Amundsen, Dirk Amundsen	9:30 Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Duane Quanbeck
April 8th	Brock Jordan	Pat Foote	Aaron Bartholmey	Marie Quanbeck	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	
April 15th	Blake Baumgartner	Judy Monroe	Deb Rose		Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	
April 22nd	Lane Rose	Andy Breuer	Allison Engel	Jim Lammey	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey	
April 29th	Hailey Sumpter, Claire Breuer	Pat Foote	Robyn Friedman		Captains	

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6:30am Easter Sunrise Service
8:00am Easter Breakfast
9:30am Easter Celebration Service

Come Join Us
April 1st
First Lutheran Church

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