

**First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA**

MARCH

2018

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

To proclaim Jesus as Lord in those last days of His life was a difficult thing to do. It was to proclaim as Lord one who neither looked nor acted like a king. Take Palm Sunday for example. Here was an ordinary looking man, riding on a donkey in a home-made robe, with no weapon but His gentle words... a man who would be executed like a common criminal before the week was out.

But to proclaim Jesus as Lord in the 21st century is just as difficult. To proclaim as Lord someone who has been gone for so many years... to proclaim as Lord someone who rarely demonstrates His power openly in our world today is a difficult thing to do. It can only be done by faith.

You all remember the story of Doubting Thomas... the disciple who would not believe until he saw the nail prints in Jesus' hands and feet. And immediately, when he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet and confessed, "My Lord and my God!" And Jesus told him, "Blessed are those who have NOT seen Me and yet believe!"

The challenge of this Lenten season is to believe in a Lord and a resurrection that we have not seen... to believe that a man riding on a donkey in a rough woven robe is the Lord of the universe... to believe that a Jewish peasant teacher who died so long ago is the Savior of the world. Blessed are those who have NOT seen... and yet believe!

I hope you can join us for worship on Easter Sunday when we share the "Easter Surprise"! 6:30 or 9:30... it doesn't matter. It will be an Easter you won't soon forget! The victory is ours! Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! Halleluia!

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

Tuesday & Thursday

1:00—5:00 p.m.

or by appointment

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Potluck is on March 4th

Come and join us for our regular First Sunday Potluck on March 4th after service. Come share your Lenten journey experiences and fellowship with your church family. 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 March, Jello, pudding and canned fruit have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Mar. 4—

Mar. 11—

Mar. 18—

Mar. 25— Palms

Fellowship

Mar. 4— Potluck

Mar. 11— **Freshe, Cantu,
Breuer**

Mar. 18—

Mar. 25—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

Happy Birthday

3/1 Ron Grunig
3/5 Dawn Lucas
Denise McVey
Barbara Orsund
3/7 Andy Breuer
3/8 Pam Comer
3/9 Arlene Byers
Pat Foote

3/18 Robyn Friedman
3/19 Sharon Petersma
3/27 Michael Hodnett
3/31 Meagan Frehse

God's Work with Our Hands is Amazing! Basement Painting Thrivent Action Project!

As part of a Thrivent Action Project, Thrivent provided us with \$250 toward paint and supplies. After our call for volunteers to work Tuesday-Sunday whenever you had the time, this project was completed in **4 days—250 hours!!!**

Special Thanks to: Brian Baumgartner, Lynette & Larry Birkenholz, Bruce Coyle, Jane & Gary Johnson, Eric Jordan, Carolyn & Stan Kirchhoff, Steve Putz, Duane Quanbeck, Bob Sandquist, Lee Swenson, Candy Thompson, Laird Trusler.

More Special Thanks to the Paint Selection Committee: Lynette Birkenholz, Vicki Porter, and Judy Swenson.

It looks great!

In God's Peace,
Stan Kirchhoff,
Property Chairman



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 at 7:00pm 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.

Easter Choir

Bring your voices and come join us for Easter Choir rehearsal after Wednesday Lenten services, starting at 7:30! It’s not too late to come join in the fun!

New Members

We will be receiving new members in March. Please see Pastor Mark if you wish to be included in this group of new members.

5 Keys to Retiring Fearlessly Social Security: Timing is Everything

Where: First Lutheran Church, 309 East 3rd Street North, Newton

When: Thursday, March 8, 2018

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m. OR 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Are you or someone you know starting to think about and plan for retirement? If so, this workshop will be valuable for you.

These sessions are hosted by Thrivent Representative Laurie Gowdy. Please call 515.321.5061 or email laurie.gowdy@thrivent.com to reserve your place. This event is open to the public.

Thrivent Financial is a membership organization of Christians that has been helping members be wise with money and live generously for more than 100 years.

Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the quiet time of Lent to walk thoughtfully toward the cross in these last days of winter. As we look forward to spring guide us to connect with others. Help us to find good ways to prune our lives of what is detrimental and add in things that will help us grow and thrive both personally and in community. When we struggle with change, help us to not struggle alone, guide us to ask for and receive help from those who will encourage and support our changes toward improvement. 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.

God's Blessings

God blesses us all in many different ways and often from many different sources. That is the case for all of us who are First Lutheran Church. This past month we received two tremendous gifts allowing us to grow the vibrancy of our worship services by restoring and maintaining our treasured organ.

The first gift came from the Fred Maytag Family Foundation which gave nearly \$39,000 for the completion of Phase II of the organ restoration. The organ itself was a gift from Fred Maytag in 1938, and their generous action will bring this magnificent instrument back to life.

The second gift of just over \$10,000 came from Matt and Diane Egenes. Matt, the son of Paul and Lois Egenes, now lives with his family in Dallas, Texas. Both Lois and Paul recently passed away. Lois was our devoted Church organist for many years. Paul was probably responsible for getting many of us at First Lutheran to join in the first place. This gift will go into an organ maintenance fund, and some of the funds will also be used to pay for organists this year to play for worship services periodically.

In response to this generous gift from the Egenes family, First Lutheran Church will be donating \$500 per semester, in Paul and Lois' name, to the Grinnell College Music program for those majoring in church performance. Paul was a graduate of Grinnell College and their daughter Marie took violin lessons there.

God is Good!

Action Team Training

to be held during coffee hour on March 11th

Thrivent members, have you ever considered doing a Thrivent Action Team, but were befuddled about how to get started? Then you need to attend the Action Team Tutorial.

Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to bring people together to make positive changes for our church and community. They can provide structure, supplies, and even \$250 in seed money to get your project off the ground.

Join us during coffee hour on March 11th. We'll get together in the south end of the room. Craig Peterson and Duane Quanbeck will show you step by step on how to apply, and also lessons learned on some of their project teams. Local Thrivent Representative Laurie Gowdy will also be on hand to help answer questions about Action Teams, Choice Dollars and other Thrivent efforts.

News from Zinga!

Work goes on at Zinga, even as Paula and Denny continue to spread the word here. They are currently in Idaho, and will be heading back to Overland Park via Washington and Colorado. Denny just turned 90 on February 20. On April 12, they return to Tanzania.

At the Children's Hospital, Zinga, the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center should be completed by the end of February. Work on the operating theatre and NICU building is also proceeding nicely. This will have to be completed before the hospital can admit women for childbirth.

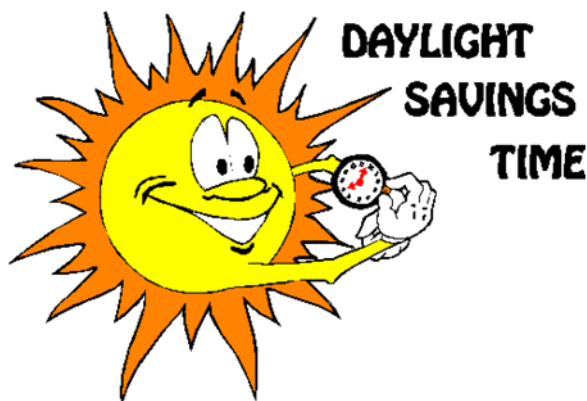
Another need is an ambulance. Mary Ellen's son Peter Kitundu of Des Moines has offered a Valentine's Day—Have-a-Heart \$4000 challenge grant to move closer to this goal. The challenge ends on April 1, so if a gift in support of the Children's Hospital is part of your Lenten journey, this would be a good place to put it. Sometimes patients come in too sick, or in need of surgery, and have to be referred to larger hospitals. The only taxi service in Zinga is a small motorcycle, so the need for an ambulance is clear.

Judy Monroe is spearheading our project to create feminine hygiene kits for the hospital. Look for more information on this soon. A container will be loaded in Missouri the first week of April, so this is definitely a win-win situation.

Paula's latest update is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Take a couple of minutes to read it, and look at the latest photos from Zinga! If you would like to receive the update direct to your inbox, let me know, or e-mail Paula at paula@ihptz.org.

Thank you for keeping the Children's Hospital, Zinga, in your prayers.

For our Tanzania Mission,
Marie Quanbeck
mhquanbeck@gmail.com



**Don't forget to change your clocks on
Sunday, March 11th**
(or better yet, on Saturday night).

Spring them forward an hour
so you won't be late to church!

Don't Forget to Direct Choice Dollars

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice program can help support First Lutheran Church or other organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018, to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars. Help support First Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Easter Breakfast

The First Lutheran youth will be preparing and serving Easter morning breakfast on April 1st. The food will be prepared and tables decorated on Saturday March 30th at 10:00 AM. All parents and children of First Lutheran Youth welcome to help. The meal will be served at 8:00 AM on Easter morning, with some cold breakfast items (coffee cakes, fruit, coffee) available directly after sunrise service as well. Please join us and watch the narthex for a sign-up sheet for food donations needed in advance of that Easter weekend.

Easter Learning for youth 4-12:

Please mark your calendars to join us on Easter Saturday at 10 AM for a special "cooking lesson" about Easter that will start on Saturday AM but end on Easter morning. This will coincide with the youth Easter breakfast preparation so when the lesson is done, kids may assist with any tasks still remaining to be done for Easter breakfast. Timing is 10:00-11:00 AM. Hope you can join us for this 'hands-on Easter lesson!'

Cloverton Concert
Sunday, April 22nd
7:00-8:30pm

DMAcc Newton Campus Auditorium

Come enjoy the music of the band who recorded the number one most downloaded song in KLOVE radio history! Sponsored by First Lutheran Church with proceeds to benefit local Youth.

Tickets can be purchased in the mornings at the church office or from members of the congregation that will be spreading the word. Adults \$10, Students \$5.

March LSI Update

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for our many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living:

poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

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.

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.

A Home Full of Love

Many of Cheryl's favorite memories involve raising her two children, watching them thrive, and counting the shoes in the doorway each night to see how many of her children's friends she would be making dinner for.

As her children grew up, Cheryl knew there were more Iowa youth who needed a loving family and support system like hers. That's when her family began adopting.

"We were a welcoming family, and we really didn't want that journey to stop," Cheryl says.

Since starting her journey as an adoptive parent 20 years ago, Cheryl has welcomed 19 adopted children into her family and her children range from ages 9 to 35. They come from different backgrounds and cultures, and Cheryl says it's been enriching to celebrate those differences in her home.

Iowa has a great need for more foster and adoptive families like Cheryl's. She says it has been a learning experience to raise so many different children but together, her family has found lots of love and laughter along the way.

"People will say to us, 'God bless you that you've done this.' We don't see it that way," Cheryl says. "We see it as how blessed and thankful we are to have a family that's so big."



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

Flier courtesy of
First United Methodist Church

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 Worship 10:30 Education 11:00 Potluck 6:30 Youth Group	5 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	6	7 7:00 Lenten Service <i>7:30 Choir rehearsal</i>	8 Good Cheer <i>6:30 Council</i>	9	10
11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	12 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	13	14 7:00 Lenten Service <i>7:30 Choir rehearsal</i>	15 7:00 Eunice	16	17
18 <i>9:30 Worship</i> 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	19 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i> Newsletter articles due	20	21 9:30 Lois 1:00 Martha 7:00 Lenten Service <i>7:30 Choir rehearsal</i>	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	26 <i>5:00 Bible Study</i>	27 <i>9:00 Dorcas</i>	28 <i>5:30 Community Dinner</i>	29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Lenten Service	30 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 Lenten	31

March Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Children's Message	Lector	Ushers	PA
March 4th	Blake Baumgartner	Pat Foote	Aaron Bartholmey	Marlys Amundsen	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Deb Rose
March 11th	Leo Friedman, Ben Breuer	Deb Rose	Deb Rose	Dirk Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter	
March 18th	Hailey Sumpter, Claire Breuer	Art Cooper	Isaac Friedman, Lane Rose	Marie Quanbeck	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	David Goos
Palm Sunday March 25th	Thomas Hodnett	Stan Kirchhoff	Allison Engel	Aaron Bartholmey	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey,	Duane Quanbeck

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

Join us Wednesday nights at 7:00pm for 30 minutes of insight on our Lenten journey to the cross. March 7, March 14, March 21

Holy Week: Palm Sunday,	March 25
Maunday Thursday,	March 29
Good Friday,	March 30
Easter Sunday,	April 1



I would like to provide an Easter Lily plant to beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning, that can be taken home after the service. Cost is \$8 each. Please make checks to HyVee Floral.

Name _____ #of plants _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____
