



# First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2018

## First Epistle

From the Pastor...

### A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE

And behold, a certain man went to town with a friend to a place where people like to eat. And there, the two of them dined sumptuously. And when they had finished eating, the waitress brought the two men the bill. And in the sight of his friend, the man placed some change next to his plate.

"What does this sum of money beside your plate mean?" the friend asked.

"It is a tip, a customary percentage of the sum of the bill," the man answered.

And the friend thought to himself: "How strange this is! This man has been served for a few minutes by this waitress, and behold, he gives to her 15 percent of the bill. And yet, all of his life, he has received countless gifts and blessings from his Heavenly Father, but he is offended that the church should ask for a percentage of what God has first given to him. Could it be that this man holds this waitress, who is a stranger, in higher regard than his Heavenly Father?"

\* \* \* \* \*

Please remember that the work of Jesus Christ continues even when your weekends keep you from church or after you have left for vacation. We thank you for your continued support of God's mission and ministry that we all share at First Lutheran Church... and we wish you a most blessed summer!

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 Potlucks are suspended till fall.

With our busy summer schedules getting into full swing, First Sunday Potlucks will be on hold until we get back together in September for Gods Work, Our Hands on September 9th. We will have so much to catch up on! See you then and have a safe and blessed summer!



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 June, macaroni & cheese, tuna helper, hamburger helper have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

### Chancel Flowers

June 3—

June 10— Johnson

June 17—

June 24—

### Fellowship

June 3— Quanbeck

June 10— Johnson

June 17—

June 24—

**Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6/1 Krista Baumgartner  
6/2 Audrey Lucas  
Hailey Sumpter  
6/4 Bruce Coyle  
Ashley Reick

6/5 Dotty Mittelstadt  
Steve Wright  
6/7 Frances Lucas  
6/10 Robert Floss  
6/11 Corinne Coyle  
6/14 Neal Hayden  
6/17 Don Monroe  
6/18 Christian Reick  
6/19 Eric Karsten  
6/21 Judy Swenson  
6/26 Anna Coyle  
6/27 Kurt VanDam



## Congratulations to First Lutheran's 2018 Graduates!

Elizabeth McVey, Audrey Lucas, Bethany Baumgartner,  
Marcelina Marvelli, Brad Portner, Michael Hodnett.

Thank you for letting us share this moment with you!

We wish you many blessings on the adventurous journey ahead of you!

## SUMMER Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

**THANK YOU** to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners! We are going to need more help! Wednesday Night Community Dinners will move to First Lutheran Church, and we will serve every two weeks during the summer. Our dinners this month are on **June 6th** and **June 20th**. With Marlys in the hospital, Dirk will need extra hands. **Sign up in the narthex and come help Jesus feed the hungry. We can do this!**



## **Summer Clothing Drive for Give Away on June 9**

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 (8:30-5:00 M & W, 8:30-12:30 F).

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## **Police Appreciation Breakfast is June 11**

First Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Police Appreciation Breakfast on Monday morning June 11, from 7 AM to 9 AM. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex (entry area where the ushers are located) at Church if you would be willing to help with this. There is a group that will be preparing food on Sunday afternoon, and another that will help serve and greet on Monday morning. Everyone is invited to stop by to say thanks to a police officer sometime during the breakfast. This project is a Thrivent Action Team sponsored event, and we are thankful for their support.



In conjunction with this event we will be conducting a community fundraiser to help with the costs of body cameras for officers, which are being purchased over the next couple of years. The goal is to raise \$5,000 by June 30.

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## **CPR Training — Monday, June 18**

We are planning a Red Cross certified CPR/AED training on the evening of June 18. There is no cost to the participants for this class but we do need eight people to hold the class. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church, or you may call or email the office or Judy Monroe.

If you are interested in the class but need a different date, let us know. If we don't have enough people we will reschedule. If you got your certification the last time we held the class, then it expires this month. Come get recertified!

## **Honor Dad with a gift that will go on to change lives.**

Give in honor of Dad, and share Christ's love with our neighbors in need all around the world. Shop ELCA Good Gifts and choose from 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives.

Our new, limited-edition cards can be customized and sent just in time for Mother's Day and Father's Day. You can also print and email a card at any time. All card options are free with your donation and available after checkout.

Donate by midnight on June 7, 2018,  
to guarantee delivery in time for Father's Day.

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## **Polar Blast Vacation Bible School**

Friday June 29th 5:30-8:30 (supper will be served during the evening)  
Saturday June 30th 9:00-noon (snack will be served during the morning)  
Combined VBS Sunday July 1st

Are you ready for some cool fun in the hot days of summer? VBS is a little different this year. We are going to try a two day format and see how that works. We will still need your help with the meal and snacks and herding and helping. We will still have all of our usual fun with skits, crafts, stories and games. We are still teaming up with First Presbyterian and United Presbyterian. So plan to come join us and bring your friends! Sign up form is on the back of the newsletter or in the narthex.



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## **Fourth of July Float**

The Fourth of July is about a month away and First Lutheran's float entry has been submitted. The theme this year is famous US Landmarks. There has been a sign-up sheet passed around during our recent church services and that clipboard is located in the back of the church when you come in.

Right now the one thing that we really need is a place to build the float. We would only need the space from 27 June through the 5th of July. It would be great to have a place that is within a couple of miles of DMACC where they stage of the parade. Contact David Goos at 641-521-8367.





# Thank You for Your Generosity to the Community Meal

The April Choices in Mission project was the Community Meal. First Lutheran normally serves a meal on the fourth Wednesday of the month and during the school year those meals are served at the First United Methodist Church located southwest across the street from us. We also help if there is a fifth Wednesday in the month.

The meals are funded by donations. We have a Community Meal fund here at First Lutheran and in the past the Salvation Army was a partner in sponsoring the meals. During this past year that partnering sponsorship ended as the Salvation Army took stock of what they felt they could be involved in. Also in the past, Sacred Heart Catholic Church became the meal site during the summer months and this year could not take on that position due to scheduling conflicts. That left the Community Meal with an uncertain future this spring. We only knew we had funds and a place through the end of May.

Dirk and Marlys Amundsen, who lead First Lutheran’s involvement in the project, feel strongly about it’s benefits to our community. Meals are regularly served to 80-100 people a night. Working with council approval, they planned the summer meals to happen every two weeks, on Wednesday nights, here at First Lutheran. As the April Choices in Mission, donations of \$870 were received for the Community Meal and were matched in full to a total of \$1740.

Thanks to your generosity, our meals are funded for the rest of this year, and should last for a full calendar year with our normal frugal management. We are so grateful! This includes our thanks for all the time and food you donate, as it’s too much for one to have the time for all the desserts and each batch of garden produce you donate. It is very true that many hands make light work. If you have the time to help at a meal this summer, give it a try and come hear the thanks from all the people that are so thankful to have that meal available to them.

## Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Lord we are starting summer, where sometimes the living in easy and sometimes we have a very full schedule. Be with us, no matter the speed of our season. Guide us to find ways we can help others that fit in our lives. In a world filled with needs both close and far there is always a way you need us in each season of our lives. Let us find ways to share; our knowledge, skills, time, experience, prayer and sometimes money, if that is what fits us and the situation. Encourage us to rest and relax. Encourage us to enjoy and participate in each season in it’s turn. Lead us on our journey. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

## **Stewardship is Hip**

In the ministry of First Lutheran Church one of the most important elements involved in stewardship is that of time. We can have facilities, money, and ideas, but nothing happens until someone takes the time to make it happen. This past month Marlys Amundsen, one of our most tireless disciples of Jesus, suffered injuries in a car accident. We continue to pray for her recovery. Marlys gives time to so many parts of the ministry of Christ it would be hard to list them all, however a major effort has been serving the community meal on the 4th Wednesday of each month. She plans, find recipes, buy ingredients, recruits volunteers, prepares, cooks, and serves meals to the 75 to 100 people who come each time. Marlys does this with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye, it is not a job it was mission. Just a few weeks ago the decision was made that First Lutheran would host a community meal every other Wednesday during the summer. This was being done because the church that had provided these meals decided not to this year. Marlys of course was heading up this effort and had already set the dates and menus.

Now you and I have an opportunity. We can give of our time to see this plan through and impact the lives of those people in Newton who are less fortunate than us. We need people who can shop for ingredients, prepare and cook, and finally serve. We only have to do one meal at a time, and we can do it.

There are many other ways to be involved in the ministry of First Lutheran, from helping with Bible School, to tending flower beds, serving coffee on Sunday, or serving on Council. The point is the Church is not a building, it is you and me doing God's work here in this place and around the world. There are many of us who are busy, but what is important to us gets done. Our lives are a series of choices and we need to remember that Jesus should be one of our highest priorities. Stewardship of our time can be one of the greatest challenges that we face, and it can also be one of the greatest sources of fulfillment.

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## **Are You Ready to Try Something New this Summer?**

Try volunteering around the church! Summer is a great relaxed time to try some new skills or practice some old ones for the benefit of your church family. Share your garden flowers or practice your arranging by signing up on the flower chart. Does your zucchini overflow? Bring zucchini bread for fellowship! (You can bring extras in a bag, so non-gardeners benefit too.) Fellowship is a great excuse to try out that new Pinterest recipe too. Don't grow rusty over the summer months out of school; read, sing, share special music. Share your mad technology skills by putting together the slide show, or running it, or both. Best of all, become a valuable part of the groups that keep us going each week! We need you and we would love to have you join us.

## June LSI Update

### Happy Father's Day!

**At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.**

**Many of the boys and young men that LSI serves in our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers have never had a positive male role model in their lives. But our caring volunteers are there to help guide them.**

**In our Early Childhood fatherhood program, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.**

**You are making all of this possible through your support of LSI. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!**

*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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### On the Road to Success

As everyone was preparing for the Christmas season last year, Ali was eager to finally give his family a gift he'd been dreaming of: a second car.

After Ali came to the U.S. as a refugee from Somalia in 2014, he dedicated his time to finding a job and building a better life for his family. But he and his wife struggled to keep up with both of their busy jobs and caring for their four children with one vehicle.

"It was a very stressful time for my family, especially when emergencies happened or schedules changed," Ali says.

Ali decided to make it his goal to set aside money for a second car. He used LSI's Refugee Community Services Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program to save the money he needed.

Through the program, Ali has received guidance through basic financial literacy classes and one-on-one coaching to prepare him for the new car-buying experience.

Now, Ali and his family are thriving. They have reliable transportation, and Ali feels confident knowing his family's needs will be met every day.

"I'm very thankful for LSI and this opportunity," Ali says. "It is really good of them to offer this program, and it has made a great impact for my family."



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

Flier courtesy of  
First United Methodist Church



## June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	4	5	6 5:30 Community Dinner 6:00 Property	7	8	9 10am- 2pm Neighbors Clothing Give away
10 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	11 7am-9am Police Appre- ciation Breakfast  7:00 Hannah	12	13	14 Good Cheer  6:30 Council	15	16
17 <b>Father's Day</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	18  CPR Class  <b>Newsletter articles due</b>	19	20  1:00 Martha 5:30 Community Dinner 7:00 Eunice	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	25	26 9:00 Dorcas	27	28	29 <b>VBS</b> <b>5:30- 8:30</b>	30 VBS 9am—noon

## June Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Children's Message	Lector	Ushers	PA
June 3rd	Brock Jordan	Judy Monroe	Aaron Bartholmey	Marie Quanbeck	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	David Goos
June 10th	Lane Rose	David Goos		Dirk Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey,	Duane Quanbeck
June 17th	Thomas Hodnett	Lynette Birkenholtz		Aaron Bartholmey	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	Deb Rose
June 24th	Claire Breuer	Andy Breuer			Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey	

**VBS POLAR BLAST REGISTRATION FORM**

**Friday June 29th 5:30-8:30**

(supper will be served during the evening)

**Saturday June 30th 9:00-noon**

(snack will be served)

Join us at church Sunday morning!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Grade in coming year \_\_\_\_\_

Parents'/Guardians' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Who will be picking up your child from VBS?

Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions \_\_\_\_\_

First Lutheran Church  
309 E 3rd St N  
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