



# First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2019

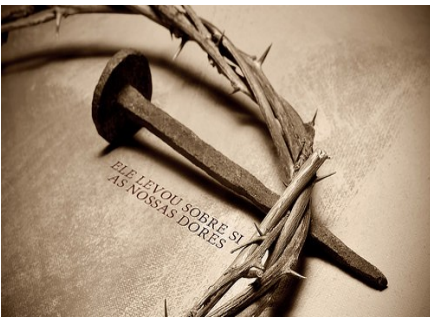
## First Epistle

From the Pastor...

### HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US

**“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”  
John 15:13**

It happened one Sunday morning. A Sunday School teacher was telling about Christ's death on the cross. She pointed out how painful it must have been to have nails driven through His hands and feet; and a spear piercing His side. As she told the story, the children grew very still.



One little boy was so touched that tears began streaming down his face. “Why did He do it?” the boy asked through his tears. “Because He loves you”, was the teacher's reply.

**The cross of Jesus Christ proclaims a powerful message!**

It is the most wonderful outpouring of love in the world. It proclaims hope and joy, peace and salvation to all the world. In fact, the redeeming love of Jesus Christ is at the heart of our faith. Without it, we would be lost sinners with no hope of salvation!

At the cross of Jesus Christ, we see the love of God. Every time we are reminded of this great sacrifice, we are filled with a great desire to give thanks and praise to God and we are filled with a passion to follow Him and to tell others about Him.

I invite you to join us during Holy Week, and together let us give thanks and praise to an incredible God who chose to die so that we might live. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We'll also have services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 each night as we witness His final days and await His resurrection on Easter morning, April 21<sup>st</sup>. **See you in church!**



Living in God's 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

Judy Monroe

mmonroe@pcpartner.net

641-792-4950

### Vice President

Andy Breuer

andy\_breuer@yahoo.com

641-275-2335

### Secretary

Lynette Birkenholz

lbirke@mchsi.com

641-521-8666

### Treasurer

David Goos

goos2104@iowatelecom.net

641-792-8818

### Administrative Assistant

Nicole Vitales

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

832-580-7451

### Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

1:00—5:00 p.m.

or by appointment

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### First Sunday Potluck

We will be starting the month of April with our First Sunday Potluck. It will be April 7th following Sunday worship. There will be with lots of food and fellowship. Lets reconnect with our church family, and hear a testimony or two of how amazing God is and what he has been doing in our lives.

**We hope to see  
you there!**



The Food Pantry would like us to emphasize a specific item each month. Remember, you may bring any item you wish!

**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 7— Aaron and Allison

Apr 14—Aaron and Allison

Apr 21—Easter lilies

Apr 28—

### Fellowship

Apr 1— Easter breakfast

Apr 8— Hesse, Quanbeck

Apr 15—

Apr 22—

Apr 29—

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



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

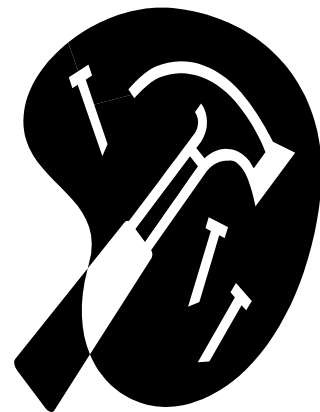


Please remember, if you are having trouble hearing:  
Listening devices are available.  
Please ask an usher.

The Property Committee would like to thank everyone from our Donor for the carpeting project to those who gave matching gifts for the heating and painting Project. Also, thanks to the many volunteers that helped tear out carpet, move and replace pews, paint, tear out basement carpet and replace furniture. The carpet looks great! The heating system is working well and saving on utilities and other costs. We do have some minor additions to the heating system that will be made this summer which will involve adding more fins for better heat distribution.

Thanks, for helping with God's Work in our congregation!  
First Lutheran members are always willing to help when needed!

God Bless and Thank You!



### 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.**

## News from Zinga!

Things are happening at Zinga! Our medical missionaries Dr. Denny and Paula Lofstrom are back, and construction continues on the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center, a project we have helped support from its inception. Project leader Selemani “Sele” Shabani and his team are putting the finishing touches on the building, which they hope to open soon.



The \$30,000 double match challenge grant issued in December stood at \$24,408.70 on March 12. We trust that this grant will be met by the deadline of Easter, April 21! The resulting \$90,000 will enable IHP to complete the birthing unit and the surgical suite and neonatal intensive care unit, both of which must be in place before the Children’s Hospital at Zinga can admit women for childbirth. The Reproductive Health Center will allow for prenatal and well-baby exams, education, and counseling.

The Church Council asked that envelopes be put in the narthex for anyone who wants to participate in meeting the matching gifts challenge. The initial challenge was made by a member of a Lutheran church in Utah, who challenged his church to match it. That congregation, in turn, challenged the rest of us! It is the perfect opportunity to multiply our gifts. Checks should be written to First Lutheran Church with IHP or Zinga in the memo line.

Thank you for your support of this important work with your prayers and gifts.

For our Tanzania mission,  
Marie Quanbeck

## 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.

## Why I Attend Church by Thom Rainer

In a culture that minimizes commitment and maximizes self-indulgence, I have learned the precious gift of church attendance or, more specifically, the church gathered. I do not see church attendance as a burden or legalistic commitment. I view it as joy—a place where I can give and serve, a place where I can focus more on others rather than myself.

I could name many, but here are ten reasons I attend church.

- 1. I attend church to serve others.** There is so much greater joy in serving than seeking to be served. I have many opportunities to serve when the church is gathered. Those opportunities are my gifts from God.
- 2. I attend church to encourage others.** We live in a world of incredible digital communication. But there is still something irreplaceable about gathering together. When I encounter someone in person at church, I have an opportunity to encourage him or her in person as well.
- 3. I attend church to encourage my pastor.** I doubt many of us know how much our pastors serve us and love us seven days a week. The least I can do for my pastor is to be there in person when we gather as a church. I know it encourages my pastor, and I want our pastors to have that gift of encouragement every week.
- 4. I attend church to state my priorities.** If I am able to go to work, to go to school, to go on vacation, or to watch or be involved in a sport, I can attend church. I desire to have a “no excuse” clause in my life for attending church.
- 5. I attend church to participate in worship.** There is something special and Spirit-filled about worshipping together with other Christians. It is both an opportunity and gift I do not take lightly.
- 6. I attend church even if it doesn't meet all my needs.** If I say, “I am not getting fed spiritually,” it likely means I am not hungry spiritually. If my church does some things a bit differently than my preferences, I realize I am there, not as a consumer, but as a giver and one who has been called to put others' needs before my own. No church is perfect. No worship style is perfect. No pastor is perfect. And neither am I.
- 7. I attend church with frequency, not on occasion.** It is my prayer to be in my church every Sunday. When I am out of town, I can find another church to attend. I pray I will never say, “I need a break from church.” I certainly don't want God to take a break from me.
- 8. I attend church to set an example for my family.** Couples have healthier marriages when they attend church. Children grow up with countless benefits because their parents took them to church. I need to show the importance and priority of church attendance to those I love.



**9. I attend church because the Bible tells me to do so.** Two-thirds of the New Testament is about churches, specifically gathered churches. The words of the writer of Hebrews in 10:24-25 are powerful: "And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, *not neglecting to gather together as some are in the habit of doing*, but encouraging each other, and more as you see the day approaching."

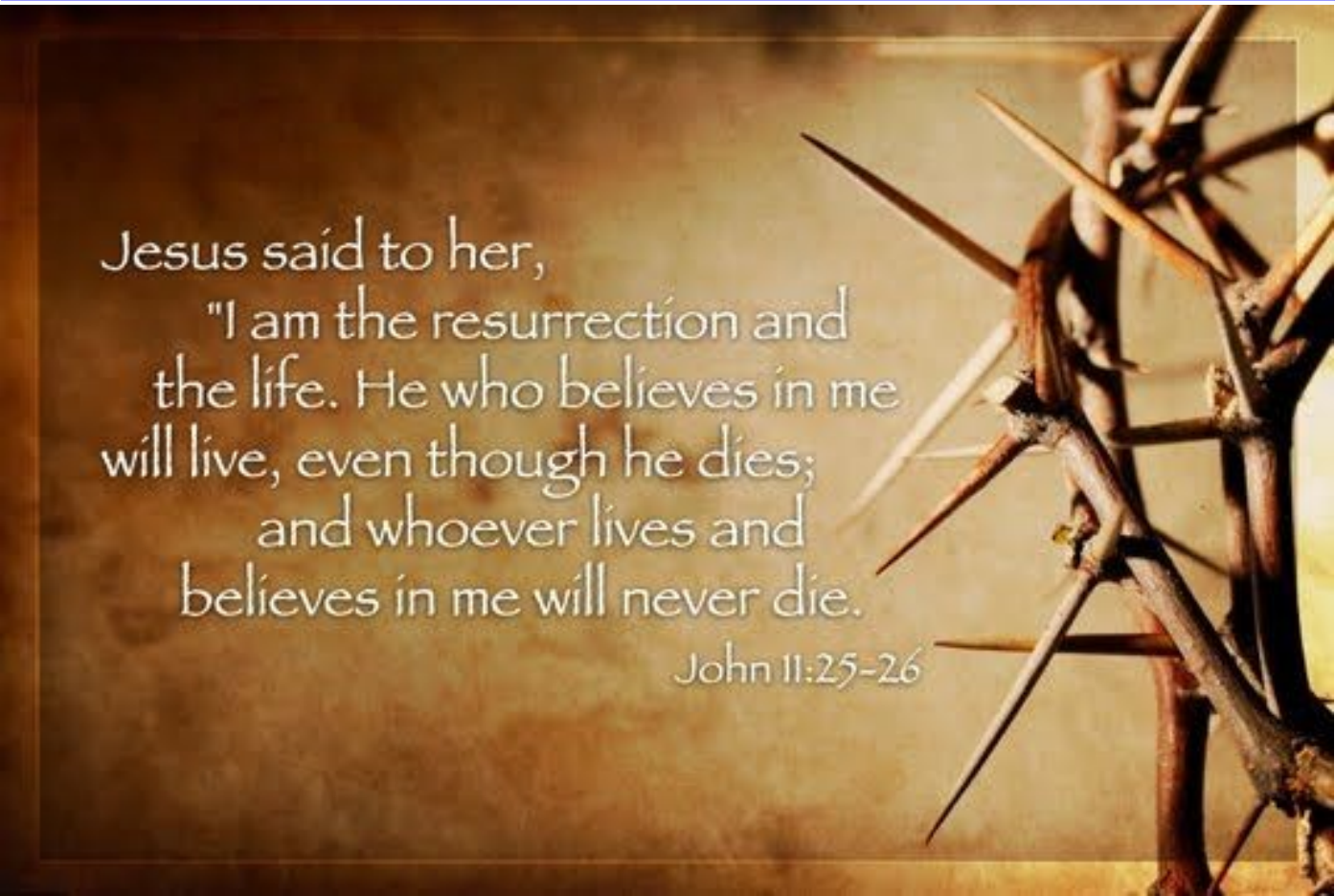
**10. I attend church because I love my church.** I love my church. I love my pastor. I love the members of my church. I love the community my church serves. If I love someone, I will be there for them. I truly love my church.

It is becoming increasingly common to see church attendance as just another activity, an option among many, a place to get consumer preferences met, or an occasional gathering to hide in anonymity.

It has become increasingly popular for some to argue that church attendance is not a high priority because the building is not a church, the people are. But those people are supposed to gather. Indeed, they are commanded to gather.

I love to attend church. I attend church for these reasons and many more.

**I thank God for my church.**



Jesus said to her,  
"I am the resurrection and  
the life. He who believes in me  
will live, even though he dies;  
and whoever lives and  
believes in me will never die.

John 11:25-26

Holy Week is a time of remembrance of what Jesus sacrificed for you and I. How he went from being praised and called Messiah to being beaten, and crucified. Thank you God, this was not the end of the story. 3 days later he was risen from the grave. He went through all of this not because he had to. He sacrificed himself for US. This is the Greatest gift. The Gift of eternal life. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on April 14th. We invite you to come start a journey with us through the last earthy days of the life of Jesus Christ, and his Triumphant return as our Lord and Savior!

Palm Sunday            April 14th 9:30 am  
Maundy Thursday    April 18th 7:00 pm  
Good Friday            April 19th 7:00 pm

Easter/Resurrection Sunday April 21  
Sunrise Service       7:00 am  
Easter Breakfast      8:00– 9:15 am  
Celebration service 9:30 am



## Holy Week

Neighbors Helping Neighbors summer clothing give away will be June 8 from 10 am - 1 pm. We will be needing your help! Set up for the give away will be on June 7th from 5 pm. until we have everything set up.

As you sort your 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 first week of May! We can use clean clothing in good repair.

Please realize that we will throw away clothing that is not in good condition, and do not bring it to us. Everyone wants to look presentable. Also do not bring winter clothing at this time.

Look for more information in the upcoming weeks on this event!

## SUMMER CLOTHING



## GIVE AWAY



## *Easter Sunday!*

Come join us Easter Sunday for a day of remembrance of what OUR Savior and Lord did for us, and how he conquered the grave. Do Not miss a moving Sunrise Service at 7:00 am. Followed by Easter Breakfast from 8:00-9:15. Delicious egg casserole, muffins and fruit will be served, and the first ever First Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt that will take place from 8:30-9:00. This is all provided by Faith formations. Breakfast will be followed by a powerful Celebration Service at 9:30 am. So bring the kids Easter baskets and come ready to have lots of fun and to rejoice in the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

***“Why do you look for the living  
among the dead? He is not  
here, but has risen.”  
Luke 24:5b***





HE IS  
RISEN

CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR



## Easter Lilies

We plan to decorate the Sanctuary with Easter Lilies and invite your help in providing lily plants.

If you would like to order a lily, please complete the form below, attach your check, fold together, and place it in the offering plate. You may also mail or bring your check and order form to the church office.

You may pay with cash or a check payable to Hy-Vee Floral in the amount \$9.00 for each lily ordered. The deadline for turning in order and payment is Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.



Lilies may be taken home after the Easter Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lily (s) \_\_\_\_\_ \$9.00/each (Check payable to Hy-Vee Floral)

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_



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

Flier courtesy of  
First United Methodist Church

# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00 pm Lenten Service (St. Andrews)	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	8  7:00 Hannah	9 7:00 pm Eunice	10 6:00 pm Lenten Service (Holy Trinity)	11	12	13
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship (The start of Holy week)	15	16	17 9:30 Lois 1:00 Martha	18 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	19 <b>Good Friday Service</b> 7:00 pm	20
21 <b>Easter Sunday</b>  7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Worship Service	22 <b>Newsletter articles due this week</b>	23 9:00 Dorcas	24 5:30 Community Dinner 6:30 Confirmation	25	26	27
29 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship & Education 6:30 Youth Group	29 5:00 Bible Study	30				

## April Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Children's Message	Lector	Ushers	PA
April 7	Thomas Hodnett	David Goos	Allison Bartholmey	Jayne Goos	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey	Duane Quanbeck
April 14th	Clair Breuer, Hailey Sumpter	Krista Baumgartner	Robyn Friedman	Aaron Bartholmey	Alex Anderson, Stan Kirchhoff	David Goos
Sunrise 7:00 Easter Sunday April 21st Celebration 9:30	Ben Breuer, Leo Friedman, Hailey Sumpter, Clair Breuer	Jane Johnson	Deb Rose	Marie Quanbeck	Bob Floss, Jim Lammey	Deb Rose
April 28th	Blake Baumgartner	Jim Lammy	Aaron Bartholmey	Jim Lammey	Dirk Amundson, Lee Swenson	Duane Quanbeck



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

Join us Wednesday nights at 6:00pm for 30 minutes of insight on our Lenten journey to the cross. April 3 ( at St. Andrews ,Sully), April 10 ( Holy Trinity, Newton)

### Holy Week:

Palm Sunday,	April 14 9:30am
Maundy Thursday,	April 18 7:00 pm
Good Friday,	April 19 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday,	April 21
Sunrise service	7:00 am
Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt	8-9:15 am
Celebration service	9:30 am

