

**First Lutheran Church,
Newton IA**

2019

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

WHY CAN'T HE COME ALONE?

I pray, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus"... and He comes. But He doesn't come alone. He brings with Him people who are in need... the hungry, the sick, the unwanted. And He asks, "Do you want to do something for me? Then do something for the least of these, my brothers and sisters." (See Matthew 25:40!)

I didn't want anyone to come with Him. I wanted His comfort and reassurance in my life. I would have liked to hear the gentleness of His voice... not the groans and cries of 'the unloved of the world'. But He couldn't come alone.

In fact, at this very moment, as you read these words, there is a knocking at the door. Jesus Christ is knocking... and with Him come the needy of the world.

First Lutheran Church offers many ways to answer the door. The gifts that you share in the offering plate are certainly one way. These gifts help provide food, clothing, and shelter for the less fortunate in this country and around the world.

But writing a check is only one way. You are not done when the offering plate goes by. God asks for more than money. He asks for your time... your skills... and your heart. He points you to that troubled family next door. He reminds you to visit the sick and forgotten.

Plus... this congregation provides a number of opportunities for you to serve! Consider helping with Community meals, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Gods Work – Our Hands, Bury the Altar, and so much more!

It's a scary thing to let Jesus Christ into your life... and into your heart... because when He comes, He doesn't come alone. But maybe as we help the lost and forgotten, they might discover the incredible God who calls us to serve in His Most Holy Name.

Christ is knocking at the door. The time to answer the door is NOW... because together, we CAN make a difference. Thanks be to God for your partnership in this amazing ministry!

Living in God's 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 will May 5th!

We are starting the beautiful month of May with a potluck to reconnect with our church family before we go off on our very busy schedules to all sorts of adventures! 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 May, pancake mix, syrup, tuna and cereal have been requested.

There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

May 5 — Troen
May 12—
May 19— Monroe
May 26—

Fellowship

May 5— Potluck
May 6—
May 19 -
May 26—Grad. Celebration
(Provided by Faith Formations)

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



5/5 Gary Johnson
Heidi Sumpter
5/6 Andrew Shockey
5/7 Gloria Grant
5/8 Isaac Friedman
5/12 Lane Rose

5/14 Janice Olson
5/15 Sara Shockey
5/18 Eric Jordan
5/19 Brian Rose
5/20 Alice Klopping
5/23 Sarah Sandquist
Marv Zimmermann
5/26 Ben Breuer
Claire Breuer
5/28 Colleen Spain
5/29 Madison Christy
5/31 Andrew Weiland



(a group of Christians who care)

You can help make a difference in the lives of others in our community! Just sort through your summer clothing and donate those gently used items you honestly don't wear anymore. The goal is to gather clothing for everyday use for all ages. The group is also seeking donations of new socks and underwear- any size, in the original packaging, or money to buy them.

Please, NO dress clothing or dressy shoes. Donated items should be clean and brought in a plastic bag or cardboard box, and dropped off at First Lutheran Church office, 309 E 3rd Street N., during office hours (8:30-12:30, Monday through Friday) or First Presbyterian Church, 220 N 2nd Ave E., (Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 11:00 am)

If you have questions or need to arrange for a drop off contact Judy Monroe, 641-792-4950, David Goos at 641-521-8367, or Linda Curtis-Stolper at 641-840-2417. Donations will end on Monday, June 3rd. The clothing give away is scheduled for Saturday, June 8th, at the First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, from 10 am to 1 pm.



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 26th. **Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The next clothing give away will be Saturday, June 8. To prepare we are gathering summer clothing, see the separate article. We also welcome those who want to help set up on Friday, June 7, 5pm Or during the event on Saturday, June 8.

Other ways to help- donate money to purchase new underwear. Last winter we collected new socks and underwear-we could have given away more!!

If you are a Thrivent Member waiting for a way to use your action plans consider this event. We can assist you with the application, and promise to do the shopping for you!! The action plan card we had last year provided new socks and underwear for over 30 persons. May-be you would prefer to bring the workers some lunch?

The folks who work at the clothing give away don't get away for lunch we would appreciate someone bringing in something simple for lunch, like some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and grapes! or whatever else you like to cook. Lunch is needed for only 4 persons.

Visit with Judy Monroe for additional details.

A new trend had been discovered of scammers creating fake e-mail accounts for pastors and sending e-mails to their members. This has actually happened... and when members responded to the e-mails, they were asked to send items such as iTunes gift cards which were supposedly for cancer patients.

Please be extra vigilant in responding to any messages, including messages from the church office or pastor. Double check e-mail addresses and if you have any doubt, call the church office to confirm. Remember that we do not currently have the capability to take credit cards over the phone and, with the exception of "Thrivent Choice" or "Simply Giving" through Thrivent, we would never ask you to make donations online.

If you receive any suspicious e-mails:

Please do not reply to their e-mail do not engage with them. The best thing for you to do is block their e-mail and send it to your junk folder.



2019 Easter Lilies



Dirk & Marlys Amundsen	In memory of our parents
Alex & Barb Anderson	In memory of Carl & Mickey Anderson
Barbara Birkenholtz	In memory of Dean Birkenholz
Larry & Lynette Birkenholtz	In honor of our Awesome and Loving God
The Breuer Family	To the glory of our risen Lord
Ben & Rosie Caldwell	In memory of Rosie's Parents Ruby & Wallace Pladsen
Ben & Rosie Caldwell	In memory of Ben's Parents Lyle and Lillian Caldwell
Cantu Family	In honor of our friends and family
Art & Ramona Cooper	To the glory of our risen Lord
Bruce & Corinne Coyle	In honor of our children, and grandchildren
Bruce & Corinne Coyle	In memory of our parents Bob Coyle and Kenneth & Mildred Stove
Dennis & Arlene Dobesh	In memory of Elmer & Florence Dobesh
Dennis & Arlene Dobesh	In memory of Emil & Christena Neuharth
Matt & Dianne Egenes	In memory of Lois & Paul Egenes
Bob Floss	In memory of Judy Floss
Pat Foote	In honor of Cash my grandson 3 years old today
Robyn Friedman	In memory of Robyn's father, Ken Olson
Robyn Friedman	In honor of the Friedman family 5 and Janice Olson
Evelyn George	In memory of Don & Iva Lou George
Evelyn George	In memory of Alma Roth
Jim & Gloria Grant	In honor of our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren
Jim & Gloria Grant	In memory of our daughter Darla Swalwell
Jayne & David Goos	In honor of Pastor Mark Holmes and all of those who faithfully give their time at First Lutheran
Jayne & David Goos	In memory of Jayne's mom, Eunice Grube and Dave's dad, George Goos
Art Greve & Rhonda Hartzer	In memory of our parents
Tom & Terri Hayden	In memory of Bob Bullers, Terri's Father
Tom & Terri Hayden	In memory of Tom Hayden, Tom's Father
Hal Herbold	In memory of Howard & Alice Herbold
Hal Herbold	In memory of Glen & Tudy Herbold
Kay Hesse	In memory of Lee Hesse, and our parents Will and Nina Hesse, Homer, and Coral Lamberson
Jane & Gary Johnson	In honor of the musicians this fine morning – Thank you singers!
Eric & Carey Jordan	In memory of Larry & Mary Jordan
Stan & Carolyn Kirchhoff	In appreciation of Pastor Mark
Dotty Mittelstadt	In memory of Robert Mittelstadt
Sharon Petersma	In memory of Del
Craig & Betty Peterson	In memory of Harold & Marion Peterson; Dillon & Dorothy Finney
Duane & Marie Quanbeck	In memory of Gerda Sersland
Bob & Sarah Sandquist	In honor of our children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandchildren
Tom Sharp	In honor of Ruth; Also given in memory of our parents
Judy & Lee Swenson	In memory of all our loved ones.
Candy Thompson	In memory of Margaret, Paul, and Debra Thompson
Terry & Carol Ve Verka	In memory of Ruth Filson
Nicole & Julio Vitales	In honor of our Lord & the amazing people here at First Lutheran
Jackie Weatherly	In memory of (Husband) Gordon Weatherly, & (Mother) Helene Savage
Connie & Marv Zimmermann	In honor of our parents.

Zinga News!

As most of you know, the good news is that friends of the Children’s Hospital, Zinga, exceeded the double challenge grant of \$30,000, resulting in a gift of more than \$90,000 to complete the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center. First Lutheran members contributed \$1,310 to the match. Thank you to all who gave!

First Lutheran received a thank-you note from Paula and Denny Lofstrom dated February 17, while the challenge was still going in. At the time, the terrazzo flooring in the building was being ground smooth. This nonporous, easy-to-clean surface is required for medical buildings by the government. With the money raised by the challenge, sinks, toilets, showers, and solar water heaters are being purchased and installed. Soon, the hospital will be able to admit women for childbirth!

In her note, Paula shared a story about a little boy who received help at the outpatient clinic. In her words:

Four-year-old Lawrence was playing with friends in an old mud hut when it collapsed on them. Lawrence was trapped under iron roofing sheets and had to be pulled free. He was treated at a government hospital but developed spreading infections.

After a week, Lawrence’s parents brought him to our outpatient clinic where he received oral and topical antibiotics. There was substantial improvement at his 10-day follow-up visit.

Because you’re “there” for us, we’re “there” for him.

*Blessings and gratitude,
Paula and Denny*

“Before” and “After” photos of Lawrence’s injuries are posted on the Zinga bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks again, everyone, for supporting the children and mothers of Tanzania with your prayers and gifts.

For our Tanzania Mission,
Marie Quanbeck

**Prayer
Corner**

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Lord be with us in all we do in our busy month. The month of May gives us much to celebrate honor and remember. We honor our mothers and all those who have mothered us in our lives. We celebrate with all our graduates on the completion of a large learning task and look with hope to their future endeavors. We honor and remember all those men and women who dedicate their lives to the task of keeping our country and people safe with service in our military. We spend time gathering with our families, friends and community as we set our sites on our plans for the upcoming summer season. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.

Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 5.

On Sunday, May 5 we will be having a special congregational meeting to review and vote upon some proposed changes to the Bylaws of First Lutheran Church. The changes being proposed are to help protect the long-term viability of First Lutheran Church, and have been approved unanimously by the Church Council. The primary change will create a rainy day fund for regular ministry expenses within the Church. A summary of each proposed change is given below.

1. Creation of a new fund called the Ministry Reserve Fund. The principal and earnings from this fund may be transferred as needed to the general fund for the normal and routine ministry expenses of the Church.
2. Beginning in 2019, all undesignated memorials will be deposited in the new Ministry Reserve Fund. Currently, undesignated memorials are split 50% each to the Building Support Fund and the Missional Support Fund. This was implemented 10 years ago when the financial support of the Church was on a stronger foundation.
3. Establish a reasonable threshold for creating new special fund within the Church's financial records. Presently there are no guidelines as to an amount needed in order to establish a special fund. This change to the bylaws will allow special gifts to be made into any existing fund, which would include the Missional Support Fund and the Building Support Fund just to name two. However going forward any new fund established will require a minimum of \$25,000. This change will assist in maintaining orderly financial records for the Church.

We will review these changes and provide a summary to the Congregation on Sunday, May 5 prior to the time of the vote. Again these changes are being proposed by the Council to assist in the financial stability of the Church in the future.

David Goos, Treasurer

Choices in Mission

Church family:

Jesus said the poor will be with you always.

How we care for the poor is our response to God's gift of mercy to us. Choices in Mission allows us to pool our resources to create that larger response. This month Choices in Mission is lifting up a forgotten people, the residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Our church youth have been to Pine Ridge twice to learn first hand the history and needs of the reservation, where 85% of the 40,000 residents live on less than \$5,000 a year. This spring the entire Midwest, including Pine Ridge, has experienced huge snow storms followed by very fast melting, resulting in massive flooding. Because of these unusual snows the entire reservation is experiencing unprecedented flooding. Since a large portion of the population lives in remote areas on dirt roads this flooding has cut them off; they are not able to get out of their flooded homes. A primary water distribution pipeline has broken leaving the residents without clean water. The governor of South Dakota has declared the entire reservation a disaster area, allowing the National Guard to assist with distributing clean water and food to the stranded residents.

As the extent of the disaster becomes known, homes will need to be rebuilt and the water main must be repaired. Many roads will need extensive repair. The South Dakota Lutheran synod has an active presence on the reservation. The Pine Ridge retreat center, a joint mission between the Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church, sponsors a job corps on Pine Ridge providing both training and work opportunities for the residents. The job corps will be instrumental in assisting the residents with their home repair needs. The Lakota Law project, a group of lawyers dedicated to assisting the Lakota people, has been on the reservation filming the disaster and visiting with the residents, preparing the petition to FEMA to request disaster relief.

The Service Committee has identified Pine Ridge Retreat Center as the recipient of this month's Choices in Mission matching funds project. Our funds will be earmarked for the area of greatest need, so Reverend Kay may use the funds to the best advantage.

To learn more about this disaster (this story was filed before the second storm hit): <https://www.npr.org/2019/03/25/706492307/pine-ridge-reservation-in-south-dakota-suffers-2-weeks-of-flooding>




Property Meeting Wednesday May 1st, 2019 6:30 pm



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

Flier courtesy of
First United Methodist Church

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Property meeting 6:30 pm	2	3	4
5 9:30 Worship 10:30 Potluck	6	7	8 Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon 11-3:00 Confirmation 6:30	9 Council meeting 6:30 pm	10	11
12  9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	13 7:00 Hannah	14	15 9:30 Lois 1:00 Martha 7:00 Eunice 6:30 Confirmation	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day 
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	20 Newsletter articles due	21 N.H.N Meeting 7pm	22 5:30 Community Dinner 6:30 Confirmation	23	24	25
26 Newton Graduation 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	27  Memorial Day Office Closed 3-8 pm N.H.N.	28 9:00 Dorcas	29 5:30 Community Dinner 6:30 Confirmation	30	31	

May Serving Schedule

	Acolyte	Council on Du- ty	Lector	Ushers	PA	Fellowship	Child. Message
May 5	Leo Friedman	Lynette Birkenholz	Pat Foot	Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	Deb Rose	1st Sunday Potluck	Allison Baartholmey
May 12 Mothers day	Hailey Sumpter	Marie Quanbeck	Lane Rose	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bar- tholmey, Denis Porter	Duane Quanbeck		
May 19	Clair Breuer	Andy Breuer	Evelyn George	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff	David Goos		Robyn Friedman
May 26	Leo Friedman	Dave Goos	Dirk Amundson	Jim Lammey, Gary Johnson	Duane Quanbeck	2019 Graduate celebration!	Allison Bartholmey

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

God bless



*our men and
women in service*

Don't Forget: the office is closed
on May 27 Memorial Day



Happy
Mothers
Day

May 12th

Congratulations



First Lutherans 2019 Graduates!

We will celebrate with them on Sunday,
May 26th. Celebration Lunch will be
provided by Faith Formations

Anna Coyle & Isaac Friedman