



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA

2019

From the Pastor...

“Paradox” is defined as a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement. I have often thought of much of God’s work as a paradox. After all, who would send out a small boy to defeat a giant in battle? Who would tell you that in order to be great, you must be servant of all? It makes no sense... right? And yet, somehow, God makes it all work. Check out **The Paradoxical Commandments** as printed below.

- 1 People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
Love them anyway!
- 2 If you succeed, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.
Succeed anyway!
- 3 The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway!
- 4 Honesty and kindness will make you vulnerable.
Be honest and kind anyway!
- 5 People with the biggest ideas can quickly be shot down by people with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway!
- 6 People might favor under-dogs, but follow only top dogs.
Fight for a few under-dogs anyway!
- 7 What you spend years building might be destroyed over-night.
Build anyway!
- 8 People really do need help but may attack you if you try to help.
Help people anyway!
- 9 Give the world the best you have and you may get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway!

In the final analysis, it's between you and God.
It's not between you and them anyway!

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

Property Committee will be meeting Wednesday August 7th at 6:30.

We will be discussing projects that need our attention this fall.

- Office entry ceiling needs to be finished. We hope that our spring leaks have been taken care of.
- Additional fin tubes for our sanctuary for additional heat.
- Possible uninvent by elevator hooked to heating system.
- Exterior painting along with some interior touch up and some ceiling repair.
- East side of educational unit downspouts that need some repair along with repair on the downspout by southeast steps.
- The hedge and other bushes on the south and west side of church should be trimmed.
- Carpet in balcony by railing needs to be removed.

If you see something that needs to be repaired or looked at please contact:

Property Committee

Stan Kirchhoff chairman or contact Office

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 August, Cereal, and Laundry soap have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Aug 4— Bob Floss
Aug 11— Sandra Ayers
Aug 18—
Aug 25—

Fellowship

Aug 4—
Aug 11—
Aug 18—
Aug 25—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.



8/2 Terri Hayden
 8/7 Blake Geilenfeldt
 Deborah Rose
 8/9 Thomas Hodnett
 8/10 Alex Breuer
 8/11 Rachel Monroe

8/17 Duane Quanbeck
 8/19 Arlene Dobesh
 Carey Jordan
 8/21 Elizabeth McVey
 8/22 Debora Lammey
 8/26 Cami Wright
 8/27 Steven Putz
 8/28 Barbara Birkenholtz
 Marilyn Gelinas
 Candy Thompson
 8/29 Elizabeth Coyle
 Nicole Vitales
 8/30 Marcelina Marvelli

United Way of Jasper County Block Party

Have one last hurrah of summer with an evening of free fun and entertainment for all ages. Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 5:30 PM – 8 PM. At Legacy Plaza Iowa.

Enjoy an evening of family-friendly games, live music, check out the volunteer fair, and take part in fun activities for kids.

Activities include:

Volunteer Fair

Free Popsicles

Jumbo Connect 4

Giant Yahtzee

Game Wheel

Giant Root Beer Pong

Bags

Family Bingo at Gezellig Brewery (5-8 p.m.)

And more!!!!



free

This event is free and open to all as part of United Way of Jasper County's Fall Campaign Kickoff.

Food will be available for purchase as well.

Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners! Wednesday Night Community Dinners will take a break over the summer and resume back at the Methodist Church on the last Wednesday in August. **Please keep the hungry in your prayers, donate to the food pantry and drop off fresh garden produce at the Salvation Army.**



There is a God

We go to church on a regular basis and study the Scriptures as they were recorded by the disciples. We participate in Bible studies and read the Bible on our own. In 2015 75% of Americans identified as Christians. This is a 10% drop from the 85% which were reported in 1990. We refer to our relationship with God and Jesus as our faith, which is a reflection on the fact that we believe in something that we cannot see. Our faith is the compass which helps us navigate our way through life.

Through the years there have been many discussions about the origin of life on earth. Were we created by a divine being or did life randomly appear as amino acids combined with other cells to form a living organism. For many years scientists have been trying to replicate the spontaneous creation of life, however no one has been able to achieve it.

In a recent article I read it gave a commonsense illustration of just exactly what it would take for life to spontaneously appear. The writer said that the probability of life just appearing on its own would be equal to an explosion in a printing shop that resulted in a fully bound and complete Webster's dictionary being found in the rubble. Let that sink in, an explosion in a print shop where the type, ink, and paper are blown in such a manner that they would create a fully complete Webster's dictionary. I really doubt that a dictionary would even survive a blast like that let alone be created.

What this tells me is that God is real and we have proof beyond the Scriptures. This is a great story to share with people you would like to invite to join us for worship. Why not develop a relationship with God because you know he is real. As First Lutheran Church continues to grow and reach out to others we can carry this knowledge in our heads and hearts.

I know I will never look at a dictionary the same again.

Thank  You!

Our Choice in missions for the residents of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota was a success! First Lutheran was able to send a total of \$624.00 to help with flood relief. This could not possible without the people of this church that felt led by the Holy Spirit to help these people that are desperately in need. Our funds were ear marked for the area in the greatest need, and Reverend Kay will use the funds to the best of her advantage.



Outdoor Multi-church Service

Our annual Multi-Church Outdoor Worship service will be held on Sunday August 25th, 2019 at 10:00 am. We will be combining service with First Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, United Methodist, Congregational United Church of Christ, Holy Trinity, and St. Andrews (of Sully). First Lutheran is proud to once again host this event. Service will be held in the green space on the West side of First Lutheran Church. We will be having a picnic style Fellowship following the service.

This is going to be great and I promise you are not going to want to miss this! So come, and worship with us and our community's churches for an unique, uplifting and insightful service.

If you are interested in participating in the mass choir, all rehearsals will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, August 21st at 7:00 pm and on Sunday August 25th at 9:20 am.

I would like to thank my church family for all the hugs, prayers, shared tears, cards and generous donations given in Art's memory.

Ramona Cooper



Let all take a moment say a prayer over all of the students, teachers, and administrators as the start of a new school year is upon us .

Lord, we give this school year to you. I pray that each of these children, teachers, and administrators will be shown your favor, that the children will learn exactly what is right for them to learn, and that the teachers apply the knowledge to help make this an easy process. Help them all to master new skills and increase in their love of learning and teaching. Prepare them for what you have for them in their futures. Protect them from what is harmful to them and expose them to good things only. We pray that they will have good attitudes and a willingness to work hard. We pray that the children will show respect and obedience. Please give our families peace during this school year. Thank you for loving us, protecting them, and caring for all of our families. Amen

**All you children shall be taught by the Lord,
and great shall be the peace of your children.
Isaiah 54:13**

**Newton School's First day of school is
August 23rd**



Update from Zinga

Paula and Denny are moving into the house designed for them this month. This house is also where the visiting medical teams and other volunteers will stay. It is located on the hospital grounds.

The birthing center progress continues. They are putting in the bathrooms now. Due to the high water table they are putting in, as required, a special sewer system. This adds cost, but will protect the environment. As soon as the birthing center is completed, the nursery and NICU are next in line for construction. The outpatient clinic is seeing about 400 children a month. Mostly for infectious disease, such as malaria. The local weather has not cooperated for the rice crop this year, it is more sparse than expected.

Please keep the construction crew, patients and staff in your prayers. If you have a few spare pennies- they can use those too!

Jesus is teaching his disciples how to pray and that prayer is about conversing with God and building a relationship with Him. His model prayer for them is the “Lord’s Prayer” that we still use in our church services today. This is a simplified version to help kids (and adults) build in the main parts of the Lord’s Prayer. Your hand is your reminder of how to pray.

Thumb: PRAISE – tell God how great He is (celebrate him through words, song, etc)

Pointer finger: THANKS– thank God for the things He has done and the things He has given us

Middle finger: SORRY – tell God the things you’ve done that you know He wouldn’t want you to do. Tell him you’re sorry and ask Him to forgive you.

Ring finger: ASK – ask God for the things that you need (not just the things you want)

Pinky finger: OTHERS – pray for others and ask God to help other people (family, friends, people in your church or school, people who need to hear about Jesus) –



**Prayer
Corner**

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Lord, the month of August is often full of duality. Either chock full trying to cram every last adventure into our summer break (the fair, the vacations, the family visits); or almost grinding to a halt trying to evade the intense summer heat. Help us to find balance. Help us to remember what matters. That it is less about destination and more about shared journey. Remind us not to get so caught up in the doing that we forget or pass by the simple things that bring us joy and bring us sweet memories. Help us to hold on to what is right, and what is good and what connects us. Help us to do your will. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.



**Thank you to everyone that helped make this years
Corn Boil such an amazing success. I have heard
rumors saying it was the best one yet!**

We served 260 people.

***It is honestly people like you that make events like
this possible.***



August LSI Update:

Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! This time of year is exciting and stressful for many of us, but imagine what it would be like to be a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. You might be afraid of not being able to concentrate or fit in at your school. You might worry about adjusting to a new classroom routine or making new friends. You might feel alone, like no one can relate to you.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental health services to children and families across the state. It's our job to relate to children who might feel alone or misunderstood. Our therapists work one-on-one with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team collaborates with families in their own homes to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision-making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI 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 LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.

Back to His Usual Self Sixteen-year-old Loki was struggling in school. He'd once been ambitious and conscientious about schoolwork, but now, his grades were slipping. He was becoming detached and disconnected from his family and his friends. He bottled up his emotions and refused to open up. His dad, Troy, felt like his son was slipping away.

Troy thought he'd exhausted all his options until he learned about LSI's Mental Health Services.

Loki began meeting with his LSI therapist, Renae, regularly. For the first time, Loki had a neutral, unbiased person to share his feelings and frustrations with. But Renae did more than just listen. She helped Loki practice coping skills and learn ways to feel more comfortable opening up and trusting other people with his feelings.

Slowly but surely, Troy started noticing Loki being more talkative after his sessions with Renae. Loki told more stories about his friends at school, and Troy saw his son spending more time with his classmates at the end of the day instead of being eager to get home. With Renae in his corner and practical skills to fall back on, Loki feels more confident. He is thriving at school again. His grades are back up. He is more outgoing, and he has a stronger relationship at home with Troy.

"I'm a lot happier and Loki is a lot happier. Everything is going in a positive direction," Troy says. "Renae and LSI have been excellent working with my son, and his therapy has gone better than I imagined."



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

Flier courtesy of
First United Methodist Church



August 2019



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship | 5 | 6 | 7 6:30 Property | 8 6:30 Council | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship | 12 N.H.N | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship | 19 Newsletter articles due this week!!! | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Newton's First Day Back to School | 24 |
| 25 Outdoor Worship 10:00 Worship Fellowship Following Service | 26 N.H.N | 27 9:00 Dorcas | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

August Serving Schedule

| Sunday 9:30am | Acolyte | Council on Duty | Lector | Ushers | PA |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| August 4th | Hailey Sumpter | Krista Baumgartner | Aaron Bartholmey | Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson | David Goos |
| August 11th | Leo Friedman | Jane Johnson | Pat Foote | Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey, Dennis Porter | Duane Quanbeck |
| August 18th | Blake Baumgartner | Jim Lammey | Lane Rose | Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff | Deb Rose |
| Community Outdoor Worship August 25th 10:00 am | Ben Breuer | Lynette Birkenholz | | Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey | |

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

Community Worship



**10:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 25**

**7 churches
1 service**

**It's time for our
Outdoor Worship
On the green!**

**fellowship
Following Worship
Service!**