

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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1:00—5:00 p.m.
or by appointment



September 2019

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From Pastor Mark Holmes

An Adult Sunday School class was studying the story of Abraham and Sarah, who in their 90's, were blessed with a child. "What lesson do we learn from this story?" the teacher asked. A young mother blurted out, "They waited until they could afford it!"

+ + + + +

Sharing makes good things happen... and good things are happening at First Lutheran Church! By sharing our time, talents, and treasures, we are fulfilling God's purpose for our congregation. We share our time through worship and fellowship. We share our talents by volunteering. We share our treasures by giving generously of His abundant blessings.

But if you take a look at our financial report some time, you will discover that we are keeping ahead of our expenses MOSTLY BECAUSE you continue to pay a part-time interim pastor rather than a called pastor. The question we need to ask is NOT "How much should I give to God?" ... but you need to be asking "How much SHOULD I KEEP of what God has already given me?" Are we too selfish to give back to God what is already His?

First Lutheran Church is at a crossroads. We must decide what direction we want to travel. And when that decision is made, we need to make a commitment to make it happen. But it's going to take all of us.

Decide RIGHT NOW what kind of commitment you're going to make to the mission and ministry of God through First Lutheran Church. But never forget that the commitment that God has made to you was to sacrifice the life of His Only Son!

I know that we can do better and I challenge you to give generously and joyfully so that we might continue to do the work that God has called us to do. Thanks so much for those who have given to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. You make it possible for GOOD THINGS to happen at First Lutheran Church!

Living in God's Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark

Choices in Mission

This September we are partnering with Holy Trinity and St. Andrews for our Choices in Mission! At the Synod Convention in May when a cereal box with Bishop Burk's picture on it was available for a donation to ELCA World Hunger over \$5000 was raised in one hour. Pastor Mark secured a cereal box- which will

be on display to remind us of what the lay leaders did in May- and we will be trying to respond in kind for the hungry in Jasper County. The cereal box will be traveling during the month to the other two churches as incentive for them also.





Sunday Potluck is back!

We are skipping the potluck for the first Sunday in September since that is Labor Day weekend. We will be starting back up September 8th!

Mark your calendars now and let's meet back up with all of our summer stories to share together. See you soon!

Food Pantry Donations for October!

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 September, **Canned Soup and Crackers** have been requested.

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

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

9 Reasons Christians Don't Evangelize

I've been a professor of evangelism for more than twenty years. Over the years, I've continually considered and asked why most believers never do evangelism. Here are nine of the reasons I've discovered, given in no particular order.

1. Many don't know what "evangelism" is. When doing church consulting, I ask believers to rate the evangelism in their church. It's not uncommon for me to hear answers like, "We send a lot of people on mission trips" or "we minister to the homeless downtown." Both of these ministries are significant (and would likely contribute to evangelism), but they're not evangelism unless the gospel message is proclaimed..

2. We have few evangelistic role models. Two men in my life modeled evangelism for me. In both cases, seldom was I with either man without his sharing the gospel with somebody. When I ask my students today about their models, though, many have none.

3. Some church members aren't convinced about lostness. I encourage you to

consider doing an anonymous theological survey of your church. I will not be surprised if you find folks who believe that good people might go to heaven apart from a relationship with Christ. Folks who believe that way see no need to do evangelism.

4. Some churches have provided no evangelism training. I am still surprised by the number of churches that have no intentional, strategic plan to help Christ followers do evangelism. Ideally, of course, believers will naturally talk about Jesus, but even passionate people sometimes need direction and equipping.

5. Fear of the unknown halts our efforts. You've probably heard fears expressed. "He might not listen to me." "What if doing this costs me my friend?" "She might ask me questions I can't answer . . ." "They might reject what I say." Most of these fears, I believe, are more perceived than real in North American culture, but perception matters.

6. We've "gotten over" our salvation. In some ways, this issue is the focus of my book, *Nobodies for Jesus*. When

Jesus becomes routine to us – that is, our passion for Him has settled into mediocrity – we won't readily tell others about Him.

7. Pastors aren't taking the lead in evangelism. I cannot recall ever seeing a strongly evangelistic church led by a non-evangelistic pastor. The pastor who evangelizes regularly will speak more of his evangelistic experiences, challenge his church with more passion to evangelize, and assure his church provides evangelistic training.

8. We don't really know many lost people anyway. Many church members are so cocooned in the church world that they couldn't list several names of non-believers they know well. If our whole world revolves around hanging out with Christians, were not likely to do evangelism.

9. We don't care about non-believers. I don't think we can avoid this possibility. If we truly believe that people need a personal relationship with Jesus, but we still keep that message to ourselves, how can we conclude otherwise?

What reasons would you add?





God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 8th

"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday is scheduled for September 8th as designated by the ELCA (Evangelical Church of America).

This Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Our congregation is challenged to take part in this Sunday actively this year by serving our neighbors

with various projects needing completion within and around our own church and for our congregational members and for our greater community at large. If you have ideas for projects (big or small), please send them to Nicole in the office before Tuesday, September 3rd, so that we can get them compiled in a list format and get people energized to help at one or more of them on

September 8th.

This is a great opportunity for our congregational family to give back through service in a very active and visible way.

So please, wear your work clothes to worship service. The plan is to have a short service then do service projects during a remainder of our normal worship time and then all come back together for a potluck fellowship!

"FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR HARVEST AND IN ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS, AND YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE."

Deuteronomy 12:15

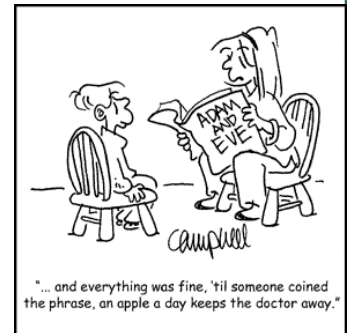


9/2 Connie Lucas
Mary Obersteller
9/5 Garrett Frehse
LaVona Thorsen

9/8 Bryce Grabe
9/9 Patty Balk
Morgan Frehse
9/10 Brian Baumgartner
9/11 Michael Reick
9/12 Belinda Birkenholtz
9/14 Stephanie Moran
9/15 Jim Lammey
9/16 Sherry Jensen
9/18 Josh Cantu
Ron Shockey

9/20 Rex Thompson
9/22 Callen Christy
9/24 Tyler Reick
9/27 Parker Foster
9/29 Anthony Moran

"Happy Birthday
from your
church family!"



Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners! Wednesday Night Community Dinners start back up at the Methodist Church in September and our next meal is on the 27th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

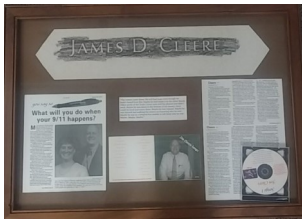
THANK YOU

Chancel Flowers

Sept. 1—Dennis & Vicky Porter
Sept. 8—Steve & Pam Comer
Sept. 15—
Sept. 22—Steve & Pam Comer
Sept. 29—

Fellowship

Sept. 1—Alene Dobesh & Company
Sept. 8—Potluck
Sept. 15—
Sept. 22—Frehse, Cantu, & Brewer
Sept. 29—



New Reflection Room

All are welcome to come in and use our beautiful new church library/reflection room.

The library is located right next door to the church office. We have also placed a computer in there with full internet access. Please feel free to come in during office hours to utilize this quiet, beautiful space.

There is a touching Memorial Plaque in there as well for James D. Cleere. If you were not here during 2001, James was a beloved member

of First Lutheran. He sadly passed away in the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001. He was an amazing person with a beautiful, and uplifting voice. He had a passion for Music and this church. James is truly missed, and we are blessed to have this memorial in our new reflection room.

A special thank you to Jane Johnson, and Candy Thompson for putting the whole thing together.



Zinga:

Dr. Denny and Paula Lofstrom will soon be back to give us the latest from Zinga, but in the meantime, here's an update on a little boy who was brought in by his mother five years ago. Junior was just a toddler, one of the very first patients seen. His mother was sure he had a disease of some kind, but because he had been weaned to maize porridge, at 19

months he was severely malnourished. He was anemic, his hair was the color of straw and was falling out, and he could barely walk. He was given vitamins with iron, but the mission of the children's hospital goes beyond treating the ailing: his mother received dietary education and learned how to grow vegetables to nourish the entire family.

Today, Junior is a healthy seven-year-old, and his baby sister has enjoyed proper nutrition her entire life.

We thank God for the impact of the Children's Hospital at Zinga, and all of you for keeping those who serve there in your prayers.

For our Tanzania Mission
Marie Quanbeck



What number fits in all the blanks to reveal God's instructions to Joshua about the city of Jericho?

Israelite warriors, led by ___ priests blowing ___ ram's-horn trumpets for ___ days, would march around the city once a day, except for the last day, when they would march around it ___ times; then the walls of Jericho would fall.

- A. one
- B. three
- C. five
- D. seven

Answer on Pg. 6

The many and the One

When I studied in Spain, it was profound to hear a scripture in Spanish during worship, knowing my friends and family heard the same passage in English that day back home: two languages, various Christian denominations, multiple places — one God.

Many Christian congregations and judicatories hold worldwide partnerships through a "companion church" program. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for

instance, relates to a total of 120 church bodies globally.

Companion synods and congregations pray for one another, visit each other, share ministries and learn from far-flung siblings in Christ. Horizons expand, enabling people to see God's family more broadly: multiple languages, worship styles, cultures — one God.

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts ... so it is with Christ," writes Paul. "For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body. ...

Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, NIV). Numerous members, diverse functions, unique gifts — one God.

—Heidi Mann



God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
1 Timothy 6:15, NIV



Register Now for 'Produce Basics'

A new program 'Produce Basics' will be offered on Wednesday, September 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church, 309 E. 3rd Street, Newton.

The workshop, taught by ISU Extension and Outreach Nutrition and Wellness Specialist, Sara Sprouse, is intended for those wanting to learn more about preparing fresh produce. The workshop will review storage, cleaning, preparing,

and preserving various fresh fruits and vegetables. Numerous resources will be available for participants to take home.

The cost of the workshop is free. Register online at <http://bit.ly/pb13205>. The deadline to register is Wednesday, September 4th.

For more information, please contact Carol Camp the Jasper County Extension Office at (641)792-6433.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

WHAT WE WANT
#STRONGIOWA

Produce Basics

Preparing fresh produce is easy if you have the information you need and a few skills. Learn how to store, clean, prepare, and preserve various fresh fruits and vegetables.

Date: Wednesday, September 11
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Location: First Lutheran Church,
309 E. 3rd Street, Newton

No Cost

For more information contact: Carol @ (641)792-6433
Register @ <http://bit.ly/pb13205>
Deadline to register is September 4th.

RECIPES VIDEOS TOOLS

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

JOIN US @ IOWASTATE.EDU/EXTENSION

September 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive in their communities.

We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new life-changing possibilities for children, adults, and families! If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact

Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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/LSIowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSIowa).

Building Bright Futures

For 13-year-old Eric, the weekends he spends with his respite caregivers, Carolyn and David, have been life-changing.

Through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, Carolyn and David provide temporary

care for Iowa children, allowing their families and caregivers to take a well-deserved break. As respite care providers, they are helping kids like Eric become more active in their community and find hobbies they enjoy.

During every visit, Eric loves going to the movies, flying kites in the local park, discovering the newest video game, and playing with the family dogs. He's enjoyed learning how to play pool – especially when he wins a match against David.

His mom, Erika, says it's amazing to see her child bloom. Carolyn and David have created a space where Eric can relax, receive one-on-one care away from his siblings, and just be a kid.

"Spending time with Carolyn and David is something I know my son loves and looks forward to. As a mom, that's huge for me," Erika says. "Respite is one of the best decisions I've made for Eric. I thank heaven for Carolyn and David and for LSI."

**We thank you
for your faithful
support of LSI –
you create so
many new
life-changing
possibilities for
children, adults,
and families!**

“It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God.”

Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, “It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God.” As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer’s end but in celebrating the ways nearly all “duties and labors of life” can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they’ll encounter.

We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in “spiritual union with God”:

cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

Puzzle!

Match each numbered description with the correct biblical dreamer. Use the passages as hints, if needed.

- ___ 1. His brothers were irritated when he told them of his dreams. (*Genesis 37:5-8*)
- ___ 2. He saw angels going up and down a ladder. (*Genesis 28:10-12*)
- ___ 3. This ruler dreamed about some skinny cows eating fat cows. (*Genesis 41:17-21*)
- ___ 4. She had an unpleasant dream and told her husband to have nothing to do with Jesus. (*Matthew 27:17-19*)
- ___ 5. He saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone. (*Daniel 2:24-34*)
- ___ 6. He was warned to take his family to Egypt. (*Matthew 2:13*)
- ___ 7. He saw a vine produce grapes, and he squeezed their juice into a cup. (*Genesis 40:9-11*)
- ___ 8. They were warned in a dream about Herod’s evil plan. (*Matthew 2:12*)

- A. Pharaoh
- B. The magi
- C. Jacob
- D. Pharaoh’s cupbearer
- E. Joseph (Mary’s husband)
- F. Joseph (Jacob’s son)
- G. Pilate’s wife
- H. The king of Babylon

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B

Prayer Corner



We pray for our families, friends and church family. September finds the school year back in session. We start it with the last long weekend of summer. Quickly the fall schedules are in full swing. We have so many choices to make and so many things to do. Let us choose to bless one another through our busy days. Let us choose to reach out and work together to

make things a little better all around us. Let us choose to pray for those whose struggles touch our hearts. Let us choose in ways both small and large to take action toward the ways God calls us to live in the world he gave us. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.





September 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am	2 	3	4 Property Meeting 6:30 pm	5	6	7
8 <u>Gods Work, Our Hands</u> Worship 9:30am Potluck Following work <u>New Member Sunday</u>	9 Hannah 7:00pm N.H.N 4 -8:00 pm	10 Eunice Circle 9:00 am T.T.T. Womans Group Meeting 6:00 pm Potluck	11 Jasper Co. Ext. Office Produce based cooking class. 6 - 7:30 pm	12 Council Meeting 6:30 pm.	13	14
15 Worship 9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School 10:30am	16	17	18 Lois Cr. 9:30 am Martha Cr. 1:00 pm	19	20	21
22 Worship 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday	23 N.H.N 4 -8:00 pm	24 DORCAS 9:00 am	25 Community Meal 5:30 pm.	26	27	28
29 Healing Service 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30am Fall Family Event 4:00 pm	30					

Serving Schedule

	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Lector	Ushers	PA	Fellowship	Child. Message	Music Leader
Sept. 1	Claire Breuer	Marie Quanbeck	Dirk Amundsen	Dirk A. & Alex A.	Duane Quanbeck	Arlena Dobesh & Company	Robyn Friedman	Jane Johnson
Sept. 8	Ben Breuer	David Goos		Lee S, Aaron B, & Dennis P.	David Goos	Potluck	God's work our hands Sunday	Colette Hill
Sept. 15	Thomas Hodnett	Lynette Birkenholz	Jim Lammey	Bob F., & Stan K.	Duane Quanbeck		Allison Bartholmey	Allison Bartholmey
Sept. 22	Leo Friedman	Judy Monroe	Lane Rose	Jim L., & Gary J.	Deb Rose	Frehse, Cantu, & Brewer	Aaron Bartholmey	Jane Johnson
Sept. 29	Hailey Sumpter	Krista Baumgartner	Evelyn George	Captains	Duane Quanbeck		Deb Rose	Colette Hill

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA 50208

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Watch Past and Live
services !**

www.newtonfirstlutheran.org
&
(on Facebook at)
First Lutheran Church-
Newton

Phone: 641-792-3934
E-mail:
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SALVATION

*is nearer to
us now than
when we*

**FIRST
BELIEVED.**

ROMANS 13:11, ESV

