

FIRST  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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1:00—5:00 p.m.  
or by appointment



November 2019

**From Pastor Mark Holmes**

**GENERATIONS OF  
GENEROSITY! !**

*"One generation shall laud  
your works to another."*

*Psalms 145:4a*

Our stewardship theme this year is "Generations of Generosity!" and it is a gentle reminder to us that God's Church... and more specifically, First Lutheran Church... didn't start with us. We have been given this gift from generations who came before us. It was their commitment and sacrifice that have made possible the foundation and growth of this place we call home. No doubt there are incredible stories they could share of hard work and sacrificial giving to keep this place active and alive... and

focused on the mission and ministry of God!

And now, their story has become our story. How will we respond to this gift? Are you and I willing to make the same kind of sacrifice and commitment to ensure that this place will continue to stand as a beacon of light in a dark and lost world? That's the question we must ask ourselves... and that's the question that demands an answer from each of us.

What are we willing to share in terms of time, talent, and treasure to ensure the vitality of First Lutheran Church and its mission in this community? What are we willing to sacrifice to make that happen? What stories will we pass on to our children

and grandchildren that will inspire them to remain committed to, and focused on, the One True God?

Don't pass up this incredible opportunity to make a difference! On November 10th, we will be turning in our commitment cards for the coming year. I invite you to prayerfully consider challenging yourself to do more and give more... not just to keep the church doors open... but to announce to our children and grandchildren (and those that follow) that what we do in this place is important... so important, in fact, that we will work hard and sacrifice much to make it happen.

You continue to make good things happen. Thanks for your partnership in this incredible ministry!

Living in God's Amazing Grace!

*Pastor Mark Holmes*

**SING! SING! SING!**

It's that time of year again. Jane is putting together a Christmas Eve choir. Music will not be too difficult, and all are welcome. We will practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00.

These dates: Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18. Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00. If possible we'll try to gather a little early that evening to refresh. Notice we won't be practicing on Nov. 27 since it's Thanksgiving week.

If you can't make the first practice, feel free to go up in the balcony and get copies of music. They will be laying out.





## Sunday Potluck!

November 3rd!

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 November!

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 November, **Canned Sweet Potatoes and Instant Potatoes** have been requested. There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

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

## First Lutheran Ministry Support Update

This is an update from the Treasurer on the support of the ministries of the Church so people know where we currently stand.

As you review this information please be aware that:

- Ministry Support has totaled as follows: 2016 - \$144,576, 2017 - \$146,667, 2018 - \$131,563, through 9 months in 2019 we are at \$105,009.18. It should be noted some members have already paid their full pledge using IRA distributions.
- Ministry Support ended 2018 with a positive balance of \$3,001.28.
- Pastor Holmes is working a 75% schedule and his insurance expenses are very reasonable.
- 2016 was the last year we had a budget with a full time pastor, total expenses were \$157,255. Our projected 2019 total for Ministry Support is \$139,424. We are pursuing a full-time Pastor; however our compensation

package would be at the low end, so a new graduate is what we would likely be looking for.

- We are currently paying monthly Benevolence to the Synod in the amount of \$1,000 per month.

Current Financial Condition as of 9/30/2019

- Through the month of September ministry costs have been \$98,487.90, while ministry support stands at 105,009.18, leaving a positive balance of \$6,521.68.
- Projected ministry support for the first 9 months was \$102,258.00, and projected expenses were \$106,752.19.
- There are no loans outstanding at this time.

Year-End Projections for 12/31/2019

- Projections through the end of the year, assuming that Ministry Support remains relatively stable are as follows: Ministry Costs for the year \$132,411, Ministry Support for the year \$141,437, leaving positive balance of \$9,025.

Projections for 2020

- The budget for 2020 does not include calling a new pastor. If we do call one the budget will be adjusted at that time.
- Benevolence payments to the Synod will be increased by 5%, from \$1,000 per month, to \$1,050.
- The estimate of all Ministry Costs would be approximately \$145,000.
- Based upon a projected Ministry Support total of \$141,437 for this year, our responses to God's blessings would need to grow by \$3,563. This represents an increase of 2.5% in overall support.

We need to pray for God to lead us and help us find what we are meant to do. We live in a bountiful world with so many things to be thankful for. Please pray for the ministry of First Lutheran as we prepare for 2020.

David Goos, Treasurer





## Please Donate Winter Clothing and Shoes/Boots/New Underwear and Socks

You can help make a difference in the lives of others in our community! Just sort through your warm clothing and donate those gently used items you honestly don't wear anymore. The goal is to gather warm clothing, coats, boots, hats, gloves, mittens. 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. Blankets, quilts, comforters, and sleeping bags are also needed. Donated items should be clean and brought in a plastic bag or cardboard box.

Donations can be dropped off at the First Lutheran Church office, 309 E 3rd Street N., during office hours (8:30-12:30 pm, Monday through Friday). If you have questions or need to arrange for a drop off contact Judy Monroe, 641-792-4950 or David Goos at 641-521-8367. Donations will end on Monday, November 18. The clothing give away is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, at the First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, from 10 am to 1 pm.



Nicole George 11/01  
Tiffany Ketcham 11/01  
Rosie Caldwell 11/02  
Shad Marvelli 11/02  
Andrew Ketcham 11/03

Dorothy Logan 11/07  
Betty Peterson 11/08  
James Baker 11/11  
Cammie Wisgerhof 11/12  
Brock Jordan 11/13  
Carolyn Kirchhoff 11/13  
Dennis Porter 11/14  
Griffin Klyn 11/15  
Larry Birkenholz 11/16  
Brittany McNeer 11/16

Marjorie Baker 11/19  
Dennis Dobesh 11/22  
Mary Ann Iske 11/23

**"Happy Birthday  
from your  
church family!"**

THANKS  
— from the —  
HEART

## Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

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

Chancel Flowers		Fellowship
Nov. 3— Ramona Cooper	Nov. 3— Potluck	
Nov. 10— Matt & Diane Egenes	Nov. 10— Faith Formations	
Nov. 17—	Nov. 17— Breuer/Cantu	
Nov. 24— Ramona Cooper	Nov. 24—	



**GRATITUDE game**

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

**What you need:**

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

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**Red:** a need God has provided for  
**Orange:** a gift you've received  
**Yellow:** something you've recently learned  
**Green:** something in nature  
**Blue:** a special memory  
**Brown:** someone you love

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**What you do:**

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!

**We are looking for a few people to volunteer & help run the PA system on Sunday Mornings . If you would like to help with this please contact David or Nicole.**



## NHN will be having a Winter Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, November 23, 2019

The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of First Lutheran Church, which is located at 309 E. 3rd St. N. This will include free winter clothing and shoes/boots of various sizes, children through adult. There will also be some blankets and sleeping bags. It will start at 10:00 am and end at 1:00 pm

### “Present tense”

After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How was your Thanksgiving?” but “How is your Thanksgiving?” After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on

answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice.”

So ...  
how is your Thanksgiving?

### Day light savings time ends Sunday Nov. 3rd.

Do Not Forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed. You wouldn't want to be late for church!!







## Youth group

Youth group for grades 7-12 will be meeting the following Sundays for a Bible study called Fathom.

Who wrote the Bible, anyway? Join us as we dig deeper into our most important text.

Nov. 3 Trivia

Nov. 10- Confirmation Sunday

Nov. 24- Fathom

Dec. 8- Fathom

TBD- Christmas program

## Choices in Mission -November

In November our choices in mission project is God's Barnyard.

You will have the opportunity to purchase animals for people in need all around the globe, and give that donation to a family member as a Christmas gift.

Please see the Barnyard set up in the Narthex.

Let's see if we can purchase a farm with the matching gifts this year!


First Lutheran Service Committee

## Choices in Mission - September Food Pantry

The joint fund collection between the three Jasper County Lutheran Churches for the Jasper County Food Pantries was \$1519.02. All three churches contributed to this drive. With the matching funds the total was \$3038.04. Seven (7) Jasper County food pantries


received \$434.02 each. The food pantries are located in Newton (2), Baxter, Colfax, Kellogg, Lynnville, and Monroe. Many thanks to members of all three Jasper County Lutheran Churches!!

First Lutheran Service Committee.

### A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



*Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.*

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3	Hannah
"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47	David
"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2	Mary
"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1	Paul
"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30	Moses

## Zinga:

We were blessed on October 13 to welcome Paula and Denny Lofstrom, our medical missionaries, to share with us the progress at the Children's Hospital, Zinga, over the past year. And while they are in the States spreading the word, the work goes on at the Hospital. The most recent newsletter is posted on the refreshed Tanzania mission bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall, or you can read it yourself at [www.ihptz.org](http://www.ihptz.org) under the IHP Monthly Update tab.

And from that most recent newsletter: Paula and Denny

have recently had their yearly physicals at Mayo Clinic.

Here's Paula:

"Now we're in Rochester, Minn. We have had our checkups at Mayo Clinic and were pronounced each to be very young for our ages of 77 and 91. No medical issues and we're "good to go" and keep doing the work we're honored by God to have been chosen to do."

And we are so grateful for that

If you were unable to attend on the 13th and missed Paula's presentation in Fellowship Hall, let me know! I have a copy of the presentation and will be

more than happy to share.

Maybe you'd like to invite some friends from another church to see it as well?

We thank God for the work the Lofstroms and the doctors and staff at the Children's Hospital do, and feel privileged to be part of that project with our prayers and gifts.

In October, Choices in Mission matched our donations up to \$2500. Stay tuned next month for the final figure!

For our Zinga Mission

Marie Quanbeck

641.521.4410



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors clothing drive- November 23

Last week at laundry night there was a little girl still dressed in a summer dress. We have received word that several of the schools will not be receiving their usual donations of winter wear- coats, hats, mittens, boots, sweaters, shoes, etc- so there is an increased need for these items!

We know some grandparents come to our clothing giveaways looking for gifts of clothing for grandchildren. This is just one additional way we can help.

Not only will the children receive warm clothing, we are providing grandparents, whose financial means are limited, a place to find meaningful gifts for their grandchildren.

One small donation can provide so much.

Other items gladly accepted- adult clothing of all sizes. Special needs are small and medium both men's and women's. Winter boots!! Winter coats!! Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves. Shoes (not sandals, not high heels). Blankets. Please do not bring summer clothing, or dressy clothes.

Thank you for your generosity. If you want to help with the clothing giveaway- we can always use an hour of your time.

On Friday, November 22 we will gather in Fellowship Hall at 5pm to set up. With many hands this takes no more than 2 hours. Just come. On Saturday, November 23, we will open the doors to the public at 10:00. Assistance needed on the 23rd:

At 1pm we need assistance packing

up and distributing the leftover clothing. We do have places we pass this clothing onto.

Lunch for a few volunteers (4) - let the First Lutheran office (792-3934) know if you can help out in this way, because we don't need several people to surprise us with lunch- we can only eat so much.

If you would like to assist between 10 and 1, please let Judy Monroe (792-4950) know. We don't need many between these hours, but we do need a few.

Donations accepted at First Lutheran Church, M-F, 8:30-12:30 Arrangements can be made to pick up donations.

Questions- contact David Goos, Judy Monroe, or Linda Curtis-Stolper



## November 2019, LSI Newsletter Article and Story

### National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### A Growing Family

Lindsey and Andrea were no strangers to foster parenting. Their older brother fostered children for 10 years, and they were inspired by his drive and passion for supporting vulnerable children. Until recently, they hadn't seen themselves as foster parents. But something in their hearts told them they were needed.

"It's been on our hearts for a lot of years, and we have the room and love," Andrea says. "It's something we knew we could do and it's needed."

The two sisters decided

to become licensed foster parents earlier this year through LSI Foster Care and Adoption. Now, they are caring for children in foster care at the same time. Lindsey and Andrea regularly meet up to support one another and ensure the children can connect and feel less alone during the most vulnerable time in their young lives.

"It's been so important to have a connection to another foster family," Lindsey says. "The kids can see they're not different. There are other children in their same situation."

Meanwhile, they are busy building a strong bond with the children's birth families. Lindsey says foster parenting is a way for them to give a child stability while also nurturing their whole family.

Lindsey and Andrea have also found support from other local foster families. They are there for each other, offering a shoulder to lean on when anyone needs an extra boost on the difficult days.

"There is a need for foster families in Iowa, and there is so much good that comes out of fostering,"

Andrea says.

**Raise  
awareness for  
the hundreds  
of Iowa  
children in  
need of a safe,  
loving home**



NATIONAL  
**Adoption  
Month**



Complete the first of Jesus' "beatitudes" correctly: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for ..."

- A. they shall be comforted.
- B. theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- C. they shall inherit the earth.
- D. they shall see God.

Answer found on pg. 4

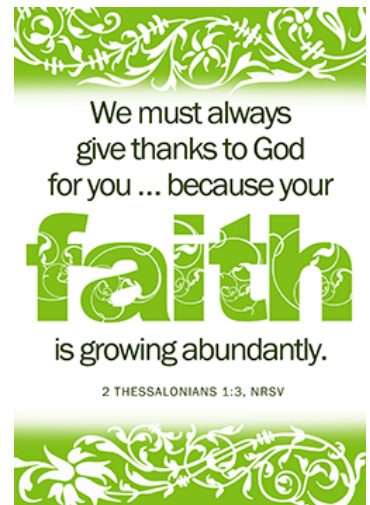
## Reminder

our congregational general meeting with be Sunday, December 8, immediately after the service.

At this meeting we will vote on new council members, the

budget, and any other business which needs a congregational vote.

Also on this day-  
we will have our chili  
lunch followed by  
caroling.



## "A little child will lead them"

Isaiah 11 prophesies hope for the world: wisdom, understanding, righteousness, justice, faithfulness, peace. In the words "a little child will lead them" (v. 6), Christians hear a foretelling of God's coming to earth as the child Jesus. Today, children — Jesus' examples of fitness for God's kingdom (Mark 10:14) — often lead in showing love.

At age 11, avid baker Michael Platt opened a pastry shop in Maryland to benefit homeless people; for desserts sold, he gives an equal number to shelter residents. Eric Schubert, 18, of New Jersey, uses his genealogy research skills to help strangers — more than 1,000 so far — find long-lost family. In Pennsylvania, Neijae Graham-

Henries became a certified barber at age 7 to give free haircuts to kids who couldn't afford them. (Stories shared on GoodNewsNetwork.org.)

May these children inspire us to use our passions and skills for good, in the name of the Christ-child, who grew up and taught us to serve others in love.

## Prayer Corner

We thank you, Lord, for autumn: for falling temperatures and morning chill, trees turned gold and red, brown and orange, falling leaves and blowing leaves, the smell of burning leaves, the joy of leaf-pile jumping.

We thank you, Lord, for autumn: the interplay of outside temperatures and inside warmth, the promise of cider and pump-

kin bread, the blessing of blankets and sweaters.

We thank you, Lord, for autumn: the beauty and hope in the change of season, the promise that the coming of autumn heralds another ending, a new beginning, and the wonder of another winter, another spring, another summer, yet to come..

Amen.







# NOVEMBER 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 ( Day Light Savings Time Ends)  All Saints Worship 9:30am Potluck / Sunday	4	5	6 Property Meeting 6:30 pm	7	8	9
10 Commitment Sunday / Confirmation Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School / Youth Group (Fathom) 10:30am	11 Hannah 7:00 pm  N.H.N 4 -8:00 pm	12 Eunice Cr 9:00 am	13	14 Council Meeting 6:30 pm.	15	16
17 Worship 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday / Youth Group (Fathom) School 10:30am	18	19	20 Lois Cr. 9:30 am Martha Cr. 1:00 pm	21	22  N.H.N. Give Away Set Up	23 N.H.N. Winter Clothing Give Away 10:00 am—1:00 pm
24 Worship 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30am	25  N.H.N 4 -8:00 pm	26 DORCAS 9:00 am	27 Community Meal 5:30 pm.	28 	29	30



	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Lector	Ushers	PA	Fellowship	Child. Message	Music Leader
Nov. 3	Ben Breuer	Dave Goos	Jayne Goos	Dirk A. & Alex A.	Dave Goos	Potluck	Allison Bartholmey	Allison Bartholmey
Nov. 10	Blake Baumgartner	Judy Monroe	Jim Lammey	Lee S, Aaron B, & Dennis P.	David Goos & Arlene Dobesh	Faith Formations	Deb Rose	Colette Hill
Nov. 17	Thomas Hodnett	Jim Lammey	Lane Rose	Bob F., & Stan K.	Deb Rose	Breuer/Cantu	Aaron Bartholmey	Jane Johnson
Nov. 24	Leo Fired-man	Jane Johnson	Pat Foote	Jim L., & Gary J.	Arlene Dobesh		Robyn Friedman	Colette Hill

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FIRST  
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**Watch Past and Live  
services !**

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