

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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1:00—5:00 p.m.
or by appointment

December 2019

December 2019

From Pastor Mark Holmes

May the Christmas gifts
remind you of God's
greatest gift:

His only begotten Son.

May the Christmas can-
dles remind you of Him
who is the
"Light of the World".

May the Christmas tree
remind you of another
tree on which

He died for you.

May the Christmas carols
remind you of the song
the angels sang,
**"Glory to God in the
highest".**

May the Christmas season
remind you in EVERY way
of **Jesus Christ, your
King!**

* * * * *

There's no denying that
this time of the year is
incredibly busy! But in
the midst of all the things
that need to be done... I
invite you to take a few
moments to stop and
remember the REAL rea-
son for the season. Nev-
er forget that in this spe-
cial season... God comes
into our tired and worn-
out world in the form of
a child... so small, so in-
nocent, so vulnerable...
and yet, so holy and so
full of hope.

As each of us look into
the face of that tiny child,
we realize that we
ourselves have been

transformed by the miracle
of Christmas! We realize
that we can now live in the
knowledge that no matter
who might fail us or let us
down... no matter how
forsaken or lonely we might
feel... we have this
assurance:

God is with us, and all is
well!

Have a blessed and joyous
holiday season!

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.

feel free to go up in the
balcony and get

copies of music.
They will be laying out.



Reminder

Our congregational general meeting will be Sunday, December 8, immediately after worship service. At this meeting we will vote on new council members, the budget, and any other business which needs a congregational vote.

Chili & Caroling

December 8th!

We will be meeting in the Fellowship hall and enjoying this Advent Season. With friends, family and a big bowl of delicious Chili. After we will be joining together to go to a few places to go caroling. Please join us while sharing the joys of the season with others to brighten their day with our voices.

Food Pantry Donations for December!

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 December, **Canned Soups, Tuna & Tuna Helper, & Peanut butter** have been requested. There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors to host winter clothes drive



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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be hosting its Winter Clothing Give Away Nov. 23 at the First Lutheran Church to provide winter clothing to those in need in Jasper County.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) was created in 2017 and since its inception nearly \$30,000 has been donated to help with services in Jasper County, which has impacted more than 2,000 people in need through those services.

"We talked about what can we do, and somebody said we could do a laundry night," organizer with NHN

David Goos said.

After doing research, NHN got all the necessary supplies such as laundry detergent and plenty of quarters. They have been able to host a laundry night twice a month with help from various volunteers in the community, Goos said.

The clothing drive has been going on for almost as long as NHN has existed. They didn't organize a winter drive the first year but instead hosted a summer drive. Neighbors Helping Neighbors gives summer and winter clothes away every year.

"We just felt like there were people out there who still

had limited resources," Goos said.

The volunteers involved with NHN continue these laundry and clothing drive events to make an impact for the people who need it the most.

"Personally, I just think we are all trying to just give back from the blessings that we have gotten from God," Goos said.

Even though NHN has done well over the last two years, receiving generous monetary donations to help their cause, Goos said more donations are always needed to help support their



cause, especially as they continue their laundry nights. "On a given night, we probably go through between \$400 and \$500 in quarters," Goos said. Everything needed for the winter weather will be available at the First Lutheran Church. Coats, hats, pants and boots to keep everyone warm as the cold weather makes its way into Newton this season. The event will hopefully continue into the future. "We don't plan to go anywhere. We want to

continue this and the more volunteers we have the easier things go," Goos said. Anyone can volunteer with Neighbors Helping Neighbors and anyone can donate according to Goos. The First Lutheran Church will have tables downstairs with sorted clothes for people to come see if they work for them and are free to take. "We were all made in God's image and everybody is welcome to come in here

because none of us are more important or better than the other. We are just trying to help," Goos said. There is still time to donate items. Donations will be accepted through Monday at the First Lutheran Church office at 309 E. Third St. N. The clothing giveaway will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 23 at the church.

By Dustin Teays
Newton Daily News



Ava Sumpter 12/01

Blake Baumgartner 12/02

Cailyn Grabe 12/03

Darcy Van Dam 12/06

Suzanne Von Seggern 12/07

Barbara Wilcox 12/08

Vicki Porter 12/12

Pat Putz 12/12

Jim McVey 12/14

Lynette Marvelli 12/16

Cora Dellamuth 12/26

Thomas Hayden 12/26

Robert Sandquist 12/26

Craig Peterson 12/27

Ashley Foster 12/28

Mae VanDam 12/30

**"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 December 18th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

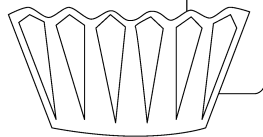
Chancel Flowers		Fellowship	
Dec. 1—	Poinsettias	Dec. 1—	
Dec. 8—	Poinsettias	Dec. 8—	Chili & Caroling
Dec. 15—	Poinsettias	Dec. 15—	
Dec. 22—	Poinsettias	Dec. 22—	
Dec. 29—	Poinsettias	Dec. 29—	

Choices in Mission - December



Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

December's Choices in Mission is the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. The ELCA Disaster Teams go all over the world. Unlike other disaster relief agencies, the ELCA stays until the need is over. Where is the ELCA right now? Responding to....

U.S. Wildfires

U.S. Flooding
2019 Hurricane Response
U.S. Tornadoes
Cyclone Idai
Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami
South Sudan Relief
Africa Drought
Middle East and Europe
Refugee Crisis

AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

To learn more about what the ELCA does go to <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>
Thank you for your response.
The Service Committee

"Be born in us today"

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote

"O Little Town of Bethlehem." The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!?

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.

Dec. 8- Fathom

TBD- Christmas program





*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.*

+Christian Symbol+



Holly

Holly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus' life and death. Holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ's blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well.

Poinsettia order form.

We will once again be decorating the sanctuary this year with poinsettias. Order forms will be placed in the in the bulletins and you find one below. Please have all order forms I no later than the 19th of December .



Poinsettias



We will be decorating the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for the Christmas season and invite your help in providing the plants.

If you would like to order a poinsettia, 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 \$8.50 for each poinsettia ordered. The deadline for turning in order and payment is Thursday, December 19th.

Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Name _____

Phone _____

Poinsettia(s) _____ **\$8.50/each** (Check payable to Hy-Vee Floral)

Given in honor of _____

Given in memory of _____



Zinga:

What is happening at Zinga? Like in Newton, they are entering a new season, but theirs is not the transition to fall and soon winter, but rather, to the short rainy season, the “short rains.” And we will all soon be entering a new church year, the season of Advent arriving just in time on December 1.

Like our friends in Zinga, we recognize that we are the hands that must do God’s work on earth. At the Children’s Hospital, kids and adults alike are given excellent medical care. In New-

ton, we look around and see needs right here, and we seek to meet them by providing meals, clothing, and food pantry items, and by sponsoring regular laundry nights where those in need may do their laundry for free. But we also recognize the call to help beyond our borders.

For our foreign mission, First Lutheran has chosen to support the Children’s Hospital, Zinga, with our prayers and gifts. This year, the generosity of our members, matched by \$2,500 from Choices in Mission, ena-

bled us to send a check in the amount of \$10,283 to help complete the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center.

Paula’s November Update will soon be posted on the IHP website. Check it out at www.ihptz.org and click on IHP Monthly Updates to read the latest from Zinga!

For our Zinga Mission
Marie Quanbeck
641.521.4410



8 Important Reasons to Have a Will

Seven out of 10 of us DO NOT have a will!! What are we thinking? No will? Do we not care what happens to those assets we will leave behind?

Did you know:

1. Without a will, your state’s laws—not you—determine how, when and to whom your property is distributed?
2. You can reduce (or perhaps even eliminate) estate taxes and save taxes in a survivor’s estate?
3. You can name your executor to manage and settle your estate?
4. You can designate beneficiaries for items such as heirlooms, art objects, jewelry or real estate?
5. You may create trusts to

provide for your spouse, children and others?

6. Through a pour over will, you can transfer leftover assets to your living trust, bypassing probate?
7. You can be a blessing to First Lutheran Church through a bequest, which is simple, flexible and tax-deductible?
8. With a will, you can designate the guardian you wish for those under your care?

By including the church in your estate plan, there will be a little child in the future that will laugh out loud at the wonderful good news that God is love; a teenager one day on Spring break in Mexico that will see that love first hand; a struggling adult that will finally understand what grace means in so complex and difficult a world – because of you.





December 2019, LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Whether you have lifted up our organization through a financial or in-kind gift, volunteered your time to our programming, or supported us as a ministry partner this year, you have helped bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to

learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or Debrah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

With You Every Step of the Way

When Lexi found out she was pregnant, she felt scared. She didn't have a job or an apartment, and she was overwhelmed as she tried to prepare for her baby. She knew she needed guidance and support, and she knew where to turn.

In high school, Lexi utilized LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services, where she developed skills like anger management and healthy communication through regular meetings with her LSI worker. LSI had been in her corner before, and she needed help again now. She enrolled in LSI's Early Childhood Services.

The services provide in-home parenting education for families of young children or parents who are expecting. Each week, Lexi's LSI worker, Gretchen, brings resources and helpful tips and tricks to help Lexi feel confident as she starts her new family.

Now, Lexi is thriving. She found a job she loves and she moved into her apartment earlier this spring. On May 14, she welcomed baby Javeah into the world.

"LSI has always pointed me in the right direction and given me support, and they've really pushed me to where I need to be," Lexi says. "I always have someone to call when I need help."





Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt

Answer found on pg. 4

**Dec 8th is
our chili
lunch
followed by
caroling.**

Embracing New Members of the Family

Over the past couple of years the Goos family has added several new people. My niece Ali is engaged and will marry a nice young man named David, no less. My son Bryan has been married for a little over 2 years to Anna, who is a bright and bubbly young lady. My daughter Stephanie is seeing a young man named Jake who I have really enjoyed getting to know. Both of my sisters' sons are now married, and we welcomed Amanda and Hannah to the clan. I enjoy being with each of them, and feel like I have a personal connection. So what does this have to do with First Lutheran? The obvious question is how well do we embrace people who have decided to join the Church family? During the same period I discussed above, First Lutheran Church has added several new members. Many of them have

recently had children baptized by Pastor Mark. They have chosen to become a part of our family. How can we connect with them?

The answers are not hard to figure out, but it can still be difficult. You see, it requires stepping out of our normal routine and talking with someone we don't know. Here some ways we can do it.

Talk with them before Church, introduce yourself, and learn their names.

Share the peace with them during the service.

Visit with them after worship.

Invite them to join you for coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Sit with someone you don't know during Fellowship time.

Invite them to a Circle or bible study gathering.

Invite them to join you for lunch at a local restaurant after church. Go Dutch treat so everyone is on their own or spring for the bill.

Invite them to a church event like the Chili lunch and Caroling or Corn Boil.

Invite them to your home for dessert and share what aspects of First Lutheran you enjoy most. Find out more about them and their families.

Invite them to join you at a community event like the lighting of the Courthouse and Christmas Parade.

The point is they are new to the First Lutheran family, and it is up to all of us to welcome and connect with them. Stepping out of our comfort zone is not easy, but remember God is with you. Reflect his love to others.

David Goos

Prayer Corner



We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the gift of your son, Jesus the Christ. He is Emmanuel, God with us, may we never feel alone. As we open our hearts to prepare a place for him, may we also open our hearts to others in our lives. Help us to take joy in the company and communications of our family, friends, neighbors and

strangers.

Help us to be kind to those having a blue Christmas this year. Help us to keep warm and safe as the winter weather approaches. Help us to recognize the abundant blessings you give us all through the year and to in turn reach out to be a blessing to others. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.





He it is
who gave
himself
for us
that he might
redeem us
from all
iniquity...

TITUS 2:14, NRSV



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

309 East Third Street North
Newton, Iowa
50208

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

Office Hours
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8:30 am—12:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
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or by appointment



DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st Sunday of Advent 1 Worship/9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School NO POTLUCK	2	3 Dorcas 9:00 am	4 Property Meeting 6:30 pm	5	6	7
2nd Sunday of Advent 8 Worship 9:30am Congregational meeting Chili Luncheon Caroling	9 Hannah 7:00pm N.H.N 4 -8:00 pm	10	11	12 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	13	14
3rd Sunday of Advent 15 Worship/9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School 10:30am	16	17 Eunice Circle 9:00 am	18 Lois Cr. 9:30 am Martha Cr. 1:00 pm	19	20	21
4th Sunday of Advent 22 Worship 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30am	23 N.H.N 4 -8:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm			26	27
1st Sunday of Christmas 29 Worship/9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School 10:30am	30	31 New years Eve!				

Serving Schedule

	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Lector	Ushers	PA	Fellowship	Child. Message	Music Leader
Dec. 1	Hailey Sumpter	Jim Lammey	Aaron Bartholmey	Dirk A. & Alex A.	Dave Goos		Allison Bartholmey	Allison Bartholmey
Dec. 8	Claire Breuer	Lynette Birkenholz	Dirk Amundson	Lee S, Aaron B, & Dennis P.	Duane Quanbeck	Chili & Caroling	Aaron Bartholmey	Jane Johnson
Dec. 15	Ben Breuer	Marie Quanbeck	Evelyn George	Bob F., & Stan K.	Deb Rose		Allison Bartholmey	Allison Bartholmey
Dec. 22	Thomas Hodnett		Jim Lammey	Jim L., & Gary J.	Arlene Dobesh		Deb Rose	Colette Hill
Dec. 24		Judy Monroe	Lane Rose		David Goos			Jane Johnson
Dec. 29		David Goos	Pat Foote	Captains	David Goos		Robyn Friedman	Jane Johnson

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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Newton

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