

**FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Pastor Mark Holmes

pastor@newtonfirstlutheran.org

515-321-4882

President

Jim Lammey

JimLammey78@gmail.com

641-792-0802

Secretary

Lynette Birkenholz

lbirke@mchsi.com

641-521-8666

Co-Treasurers

David Goos

goos2104@iowatelecom.net

641-792-8818

Corinne Coyle

corinnecoyle9@gmail.com

515-669-2983

Administrative Assistant

Nicole Vitales

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

832-580-7451

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
1:00—5:00 p.m.
or by appointment



From Pastor Mark Holmes

**OUR LENTEN
JOURNEY**

In the early church, Christians understood that the celebration of Easter deserved careful preparation. At first, Christians set aside the day before Easter to prepare. Later, this time of preparation was extended to include Good Friday, the day of our Lord's crucifixion. But within a few decades, Christians extended the pre-Easter season to the forty days of Lent, based on Jesus' forty day fast in the wilderness as he prepared for ministry.

Historically, Lent has had two concerns: the spiritual renewal of the Christian, and the preparation of candidates for their baptism at a service called the "Easter Vigil". Lent has been a time, not so much for being sorry for our sins, as it has been a time for growth and learning. Lent has been a time for God's people to be renewed.

Our Lenten journey began the last week of February with an Ash Wednesday service. Once again, we have joined with our brothers and sisters from Holy

Trinity and St. Andrew's. The theme of our journey together is "Unlikely Conversations about Jesus" and we invite you to join us if you haven't already. It will be a time for each of us to grow and to learn and to be renewed. Don't miss this marvelous opportunity to get away from our busy world for a little while and rediscover the incredible love that God has for each of us... a love so great that He sacrificed the life of His only Son.

Living in God's Amazing
Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes

A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenc-tentid* (meaning "March") and *lenc-ten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."



Potluck

First Lutheran will be having a Potluck on **March 8th** following worship.

Let's rejoice in these last few days of winter and come together with our church family. Join us for fellowship while enjoying a bite to eat.

Food Pantry Donations

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 February, **Spaghetti O's, Cereal, & Boxed Potatoes**

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

Thank you for being so generous.

Bury The Altar Was a Huge Success

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

On Sunday, February 16, 4 students from the youth group traveled to Hy-Vee with around \$400 donated for Bury the Altar. We filled three shopping carts with 230 items for the food pantry, ranging from peanut butter and canned vegetables to shampoo and toothpaste.

Afterwards, we brought all of the items to the church. I think we can say that the altar is now sufficiently buried!



First Lutheran



CHOR

Palm Sunday & Easter Choir!

Jane is putting together a choir for both Palm Sunday, April 5, and Easter, April 12. We will have a quick meeting/rehearsal after church on March 8 to take a

look at the music and make plans for future rehearsals. Sunday after church or Wednesday evenings after Lent services are the options. Be ready

with your preference. Let's make the season joyous with our sound once more.

Thank you.



Indulge for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in Guideposts magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- Pray for the "little things," coming before

God in childlike trust and feeling peace.

- Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.



Lenten hope

Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ ... into tomorrow. For you never walk with Christ long but what the dawn breaks, the sun shines and hope breaks through.

—C. Neil Straight



The Family of Sharon Petersma invites everyone to share in her 90th Birthday celebration. If you would like to join in the Card Shower please send them to the following address.

Sharon Petersma
309 E. 3rd. St. N.

Newton, Iowa 50208

You are also welcome to join us for a celebration for her on
March 22, 2020 at 10:30 am

March 1st

Bishop

Michael Burk

will be joining

us !

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 March 25th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

Chancel Flowers

March. 1—

March8—

March15—

March22— Jay Petersma &
Vicki Hill

March29— Troen

Fellowship

March. 1— Coyle

March8— Potluck

March15—

March22— Jay Petersma &
Vicki Hill

March29—Hesse/Swenson

Choices in Mission -

Choices in Mission for all of
Lent-

Our Choices in Mission for
Lent is Pastor's
Discretionary Fund. You
will find envelopes in the
pews for this, and any loose
offering during the
Wednesday evening
services will also be used
for this fund.



The 2020 Council for First Lutheran Church, from left to right Corinne Coyle Co-Treasurer, Bryan Friedman, Jim Lammey President, Interim Pastor Mark Holmes, Jane Johnson, Lynette Birkenholz Secretary, and Marie Quanbeck Vice-President

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

Zinga:

The Children's Hospital at Zinga is a force for good in many ways, big and small.

Dr. Jesse Kitundu's segment of the monthly update illustrates this.

Recently, two babies were brought in with "rashes," which turned out to be something more serious: One was treated for chickenpox, the other for rubella. A proper diagnosis is important in a big way.

A newborn baby was brought into the clinic by a mother who was so poor that she had no clothing for the

child. But because donations to the hospital have included baby clothes, she was given a layette for the baby. That may seem a small thing, but for this mother and child, it made a big difference. Both mother and baby will receive periodic checkups at the hospital.

Paula and Denny continue to visit churches around the country. Denny celebrated his 92nd birthday on February 20, and is the oldest practicing physician in Tanzania.

Finally, an update on the matching gifts \$15,000 challenge grant: The deadline has been extended to St. Patrick's Day,

and as of late February, donations totaling \$13,196 had been received. Thanks to all who support the work at Zinga with your prayers and gifts.

For pictures of the babies mentioned above, check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or visit www.ihptz.org!

The IHP team here at First Lutheran





News about First Lutheran and Thrivent:

You have likely heard about things that some First Lutheran members have been doing with Thrivent funding. Thrivent currently has two ways that members can and have been supporting our church; one is through directing "Thrivent Choice Dollars" that are available to them and the other is through Thrivent Action Teams.

Choice Dollars for 2019 will expire March 31st:

If you have a Thrivent product, you might be one of those eligible members who can have Thrivent distribute a portion of its charitable funds (Choice Dollars) to First Lutheran. Members become eligible for Choice Dollars direction based on annuities, insurance premiums paid, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars are complex and hard to explain in a short article, but these dollars can provide a method of financial support to our church, as well as other non-profit organizations. Here is the website that explains the Choice Dollar Program: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

More Information
Records have indicated that there is a potential of over 40 individual First Lutheran Church members who have available Thrivent Choice Dollars they could allocate to First. Thrivent reports that thus far for the 2019 year a total of \$2,791 has already been directed to First by Thrivent members. This is an increase from 2018 of over \$1000. Many thanks go to those Thrivent members who chose to have their Choice Dollars be given to First!

On March 31, 2020 the 2019 Choice Dollars that have been available to allocate to First will expire and cannot be designated any longer. If you

are a Thrivent member, time is of the essence to allocate the funds that may be available from last year. To find out if you have Choice Dollars available to designate, you can either check on-line or call Thrivent (800-847-4836) and say "Choice Dollars".

Thrivent Action Teams: If you are a Thrivent member, you could easily initiate an Action team. All Thrivent Benefit members are eligible to lead two Action Teams per year, and there are many eligible Thrivent benefit members at First. In the past few months there have been several Action Teams formed at First Lutheran including the fall Neighbors Helping Neighbors clothing drive and the Bury the Altar food drive for the Salvation Army food pantry.

There are many church needs and projects that could be organized and receive support from Thrivent through a Thrivent Action Team. Think of how \$250 that Thrivent will provide could be used to support a project at church or in our local community. If you want to learn how, you can do this yourself by checking it out at: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> Here is a link that describes how others have creatively used Action Teams to support a vast array of projects around the country: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/community/thrivent-action-teams/detail> Action Teams are a creative way to support a vast array of projects.

If you're interested in helping to access funding or supplies for a project this is what you should do: 1) Think about an upcoming church event or identify a need in our church or community; ask yourself, would I support this with an Action Team. 2) If so and you want to help, talk to others at First who are familiar with the

Action Team process. Duane Quanbeck and Craig and Betty Peterson are Thrivent Advocates and Judy Monroe, who leads the Service Committee, can help you determine how the activity could become an Action Team 3) To get a project approved a Thrivent member needs to complete a simple application online that describes that you will lead your volunteer team in a service activity, educational event, or one-time fundraiser, that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including a \$250 Community Impact Card that can be used as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact; Thrivent Action Team T-shirts; thank-you cards and promotional pennants if you would like them. When the Action Team activity is completed you will need to submit a short summary. You can find out more and apply at <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Action Teams. One other reminder, if you are not a "Thrivent member" and know of an unmet need, tell someone and they could enlist the assistance of a Thrivent member who could initiate the project and set up the Thrivent Action Team including you as a member of the team. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Craig & Betty Peterson
craig@partnercom.net
641-227-3209



Ron Grunig 03/01
 Dawn Lucas 03/05
 Denise McVey 03/05
 Pam Comer 03/08
 Arlene Byers 03/09
 Pat Foote 03/09
 Robyn Friedman 03/18
 Sharon Petersma 03/19
 Michael Hodnett 03/27
 Meagan Frehse 03/31

***“Happy Birthday
 from your church
 family!”***

+Christian Symbol+



Ashes

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In Old Testament days, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. The speaking of Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Our 2020 Super Bowl Potluck was a huge Success

Thank to everyone who attended and everyone who pitched in to make this the best Souper Bowl Potluck so far.



**SOUPER
 BOWL
 SUNDAY**
 2020



Special dates

- First Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2020
- World Day of Prayer, March 6, 2020
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2020
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 8, 2020
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2020
- First day of spring, March 19, 2020
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22, 2020
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, 2020





March 2020, LSI Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Workers Month

March is National Professional Social Workers Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

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.



Caring for Christopher

When Christopher struggled with crippling anxiety at a young age, his mom, Cheyenne, didn't know where to turn. Even going on a simple trip to the grocery store was almost impossible. She knew something needed to change.

That change came in the form of LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services. Each week, Christopher's BHIS worker, Jose, visited the family in their home or met with them at the local library. He brought activities to engage Christopher and help him

develop the coping skills he needed to feel better when he left the house. And at the same time, he provided words of encouragement and helpful parenting tips Cheyenne could use to help her child.

Christopher recently celebrated his seventh birthday, and his confidence continues to grow. He feels more comfortable going out in public. He has graduated out of LSI services, and he recently made a new friend all on his own.

Cheyenne feels confident that even on the tough days, she has the knowledge she needs to help her child thrive, thanks to Jose.

"LSI gave us the tools we needed to help him succeed, and the reassurance that we were doing the right thing, even when it was hard," she says.





Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

Answer found on pg. 4

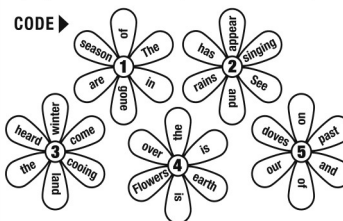
God's Work—Our Hands

One of our cherished traditions at First Lutheran is to be God's helping hands in the neighborhood and in the world. Monthly, we serve a community dinner, we support the Salvation Army food pantry, and through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, we seek to help the needy in our community by sponsoring free laundry nights and the semi-annual clothes giveaway. We support the Children's Hospital at Zinga, Tanzania, and every year, the ladies of Dorcas send lovely quilts to Lutheran World Relief. In recent years, we've

designated one special Sunday as God's Work—Our Hands day, and gathered after church to meet whatever need had been identified. But clearly, people have needs throughout the year, and we would like to meet them in a timely manner. If you are aware of a task someone needs help with, whether that person be a church member or someone else in the community, please let the church office know! It might just be a perfect opportunity for us to be God's hands in His world, in the right place, at the right time.

Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.



! _ _ _ _ _ ;

_ _ _ _ _ .

_ _ _ _ _ ;

_ _ _ _ _ .

_ _ _ _ _ .

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

Answer: See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone; flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooling of doves is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV

Do Not Forget to Spring Forward!
March 8th.
Turn you clocks forward by 1
hour.



A Special Thank you to Duane Quanbeck and Gary Johnson for completing a few projects that needed to be done around the church. Also a big thank you to Duane Quanbeck for fixing the holes in the ceiling that had been left behind from the heating project. Thank you both, The Property Committee



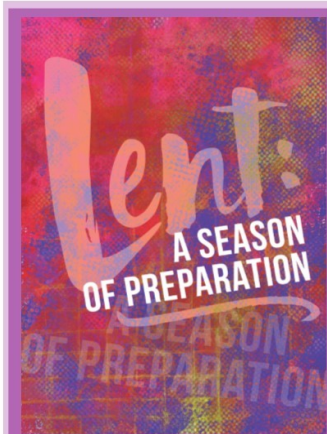
Prayer Corner

We pray for our families, friends and church family. Thank you Lord for the quiet time of Lent to walk thoughtfully toward the cross in these last days of winter. As we look forward to spring guide us to connect with others. Help us to find good ways to prune our lives of what is detrimental and add in things that will help us grow and thrive both personally and in community. When we

struggle with change, help us to not struggle alone, guide us to ask for and receive help from those who will encourage and support our changes toward improvement. Lord, lead us to love, cherish and serve your world. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world. Amen.



Next Meeting
April 1st 6:30 pm.



**First Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

309 East Third Street North
Newton, Iowa
50208

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
1:00—5:00 p.m.
or by appointment



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship/9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School 10:30am Welcome Bishop Michael Burk	2	3	4 Lenten Services 6:00 pm St. Andrew's—Sully	5 The Church office will be closed	6 The Church office will be closed	7
8 Worship/9:30am POTLUCK / Sunday School	9 Hannah 7:00pm N.H.N 4-8:00 pm	10	11 Lenten Services 6:00 pm Holy Trinity—Newton	12 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	13	14
15 Worship/9:30am Fellowship /Sunday School 10:30am	16	17 Eunice Circle 9:00 am N.H.N. Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Lois Cr. 9:30 am Martha Cr. 1:00 pm Lenten Services 6:00 pm First Lutheran	19	20	21
Fellowship Celebration for Sharon Petersma's 90th Birthday Worship 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ Youth—Fathom 10:30am	22 N.H.N 4-8:00 pm	23 N.H.N 4-8:00 pm	24 Community Meal 5:30 pm Lenten Services 6:00 pm St. Andrew's—Sully	25 Community Meal 5:30 pm	26	27
28	29 Worship/9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30am Youth—Fathom	30	31 Dorcas 9:00 am			

Serving Schedule

	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Lector	Ushers	PA	Fellowship	Child. Message	Music Leader
March. 1	Ben Breuer	Corinne Coyle	Aaron Bartholmey	Dirk A. & Alex A.	Deb Rose	Coyle	Robyn Friedman	Allison Bartholmey
March 8	Leo Friedman	Lynette Birkenholz	Dirk Amundsen	Lee S, & Aaron B,	Duane Quanbeck	Potluck	Robyn Friedman	Jane Johnson
March 15	Claire Breuer	Jane Johnson	Evelyn George	Bob F., & Stan K.	David Goos		Robyn Friedman	Jane Johnson
March 22	Hailey Sumpter	Brian Friedman	Jayne Goos	Jim L., & Gary J.	Aaron Bartholmey	Jay Petersma & Vicki Hill	Allison Bartholmey	Allison Bartholmey
March 29	Ben Breuer	Jim Lammey	Pat Foote	Captains	Deb Rose	Hesse/ Swenson	Aaron Bartholmey	Colette Hill

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Watch Past and Live
services !

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

Phone: 641-792-3934
E-mail:
firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org



FORTY Days OF LENT

Please join us along with
Holy Trinity and St. Andrew's
for Lenten services.

The schedule is as follows

February 26	Elder & Peter (Ash Wednesday Service)	Matthew 26:17-35	First Lutheran Church
March 4	Judas & Mary Magdalene	Matthew 26:47-56	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
March 11	Caiaphas & Pilates Wife	Matthew 26:57-66	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
March 18	Simon of Cyrene & Herod	Matthew 26:33-46	First Lutheran Church
March 25	Joseph/Armathea & Barabbas	Matthew 27:32-50	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
April 1	Pilate & Jesus' Mother	Matthew 27:57-66	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church