

**FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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From Pastor Mark Holmes

KEEPING THE FAITH

Everyday challenges can be a test of our faith... but our faith is tested even more in the midst of a global pandemic. Not only are people worried about their health, but as school and jobs close, people are also concerned about childcare, elderly friends and family in nursing homes, and getting the bills paid. The pandemic is not only a threat to all of these worries, but it is also a threat to our faith and trust in God. Surely, we are tempted to ask, "Where is God in all of this?"

To help strengthen our faith in these difficult times, let us remember to focus on our faith, rather than fear. I absolutely think we should take this pandemic seriously by using caution and exercising common sense. But let us do so in faith.

In the face of this coronavirus pandemic, we have the power to choose our response. When we choose faith over fear... wisdom over worry... and prayer over panic, we can experience the "peace of God which passes all understanding".

The phrase comes from Philippians 4:7 and I use

it each week to close my sermon: "And now may the peace of God which passes all our understanding keep our hearts and minds, through faith. In Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen."

The peace of GOD is beyond our understanding. This is the peace we need for these days of uncertainty. As we struggle to find our ways in these difficult times, let us never forget that the Good Shepherd will continue to lead us... just as he ALWAYS has. And may He give us peace for our troubled hearts.

STILL Living in God's
Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes

**Sidewalk
Chalk Art
by Emma
Kirchhoff,
granddaughter
of Carolyn
and Stan
Kirchhoff.**



Wedding Coordinator

The church council is seeking a wedding coordinator, must be a member of the congregation. If you are interested, want additional information, or even have someone to suggest for this position, please speak to a member of the council.

Youth Art

It would be great to have the youth in our Church post their art on the Facebook page, or email pictures to the Church. FirstOffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org This way we can include them in next month's newsletter. We would love to see all of your projects!

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 May **Raman Noodles, Boxed Potatoes, & Tuna Helper** have been requested. Please take all donations directly to the Salvation Army. Thank you for being so generous.

Suggestions

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic we have been unable to come together as a Church family and worship. In an effort to keep us connected here are a few ideas for you to consider.

1. Share some of your art. This could be a picture of a painting you once did or perhaps it's current art that your children or grandchildren could do either coloring or with pencils. We recently had a side-

walk chalk picture we shared that was enjoyed by many. We would like to share these on our Facebook page and may also include them in our electronic newsletter. Please email your items to Nicole at Firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org

2. Take a family picture and show off your quarantine hair! Many of us cannot wait to go have our hair taken care of like we normally do, we are getting long and shaggy. We also have most of

our families home as students are not in college or community schools. Maybe everybody in your family wears a big hat in the picture but make sure that your smiles come through. Please send these to Nicole as well.

3. Watch and share our weekly online worship services. Many of you are aware our weekly services are on Facebook as well as of being available on our website. After you watch the weekly service

consider sharing it on Facebook so other friends and family could watch it as well. We have been having over 200 views of the worship service on our Facebook page which is well above our average weekly attendance. This is a great way to share God's word with those who may need it now more than ever.

David Goos



Property Committee Notes

I need to get a memo out about taking care of the roses possibly the area around the car port. Special thanks to Ramona Cooper for doing an excellent job of taking care of the roses

and other areas.

She is now Ramona Young and is unable to continue and we wish her well. Thanks and a great job Ramona. Property Committee. If you would be interested in doing

just the Knockout Roses or more contact: Property Committee or contact the office. Thanks for your consideration! Stan Kirchhoff. Property Chairman



Echoes of Easter

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of

kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing. Leaders at Camp Noah

attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Men-

tal health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann



*Stay Home,
Stay safe,
Stay Healthy*

I would love to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all of my friends, and church family here at First Lutheran for all of the cards and well wishes for my 90th birthday that was in March.

It truly meant so much to me.

Thank you !

Sharon Petersma

THANKS
—from the—
HEART

Wednesday Night Community Dinners are drive up pick up.

THANK YOU to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners!

We are still participating in Wednesday Night Community Dinners but due to Covid19 they will

be drive up pick up. Through the end of May. All Community dinners are at the Methodist Church and our next meal

is on the May 27th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

Zinga News!

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.

While we are hunkering down in Newton, the Coronavirus is also, sadly, making inroads in Tanzania. Because flights in and out of Tanzania were canceled before Paula and Denny's return, they are still in social isolation in Overland Park, and teams that were scheduled to visit the Children's Hospital at Zinga this summer will not be able to go.

But Dr. Charles Powell, who visited our church with Dr. Denny and Paula Lofstrom in October, is in Zinga now. He arrived in February with three engineers who had volunteered their services to plan the hospital's wastewater treatment, necessary because of the high water table. The engineers returned to the States before the travel ban, but Charles stayed. As he says in the April newsletter, "For all practical purposes, I am 'stuck' in Zinga, but I can't think of anywhere I'd rather be 'stuck'."

Thanks to donations to the hospital, every-

one there has protective equipment which keeps them safe and prevents spreading the virus. Patients are being seen and provided education on how to stay safe in the pandemic.

Back in Overland Park, Paula is putting her forced downtime to good use: She is sewing masks with HEPA filter inserts to keep people safe, to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, and as a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital. For more on Paula's mask project and what is going on in Zinga, check out the April Update at <https://www.ihptz.org/post/april->

2020-update-from-ihp, or go to www.ihptz.org and click on IHP Monthly Update.

The pandemic may also delay the opening of the MEK Memorial Birthing Center. Let us continue to pray for an early end to this crisis, for a vaccination and a cure, and a return to normal.

The IHP team here at First Lutheran





First Lutheran is very proud of our 2020 Graduates!



Fran Lucas daughter of Todd & Dawn Lucas is graduating from UNI a degree in Interior Design, a minor in Gerontology, a certificate in Sustainability & a certificate in coaching.

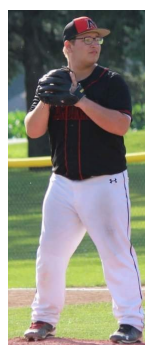
Upon graduation she am planning to work in the Des Moines area at an architectural firm. I am grateful to have spent the last four years at UNI and for lifelong friendships that i have made along the way.



Brock Jordan son od Eric & Carey Jordan He is a , 2020 Senior at NHS. He loves music and has especially enjoyed participating in marching band and jazz band all 4 years. He also played soccer his freshman year and golf his sophomore year. He will be attending Buena Vista University in the Fall to study math and music.



This is Lane Rose, son of Todd & Deb Rose. Lane is in the class of NHS 2020. Lane is headed to the University of Iowa next fall where he plans to major in creative writing and possibly film studies. In high school, Lane has been involved in Speech, Theater, GSA, and Dungeons and Dragons Club.



Danny Vitales, son of Julio and Nicole Vitales. He is a 2020 senior of NHS. We are crossing our fingers he gets to play baseball one final season with his team.

He has worked for dominos here in Newton for a over 1 1/2 years. Danny is also one of the founding members of Cardinal TV. He will be continuing his education here in Newton at DMACC in business management.



May Birthdays

Gary Johnson 05/05
 Heidi Sumpter 05/05
 Andrew Shockey 05/06
 Gloria Grant 05/07
 Isaac Friedman 05/08
 Darrell Boettcher 05/11
 Lane Rose 05/12
 Janice Olson 05/14
 Sara Shockey 05/15
 Eric Jordan 05/18
 Alice Kloppling 05/20
 Sarah Sandquist 05/23
 Marv Zimmermann 05/23
 Ben Breuer 05/26
 Claire Breuer 05/26
 Madison Christy 05/29
 Halie Dellamuth 05/29

**"Happy
 Birthday from
 your church**

A Spirit who comforts

In a time when life expectancy was around 40 years, Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) lived more than twice that long. The Benedictine abbess and mystic wrote books and music, founded two convents, conducted four "preaching tours" and much more, despite chronic illness, lack of schooling, grave self-doubt and a male-dominated church and society. Perhaps these

poetry excerpts reveal her source of strength and inspiration:

O comforting fire of Spirit,
 Life, within the very
 Life of all Creation.
 Holy you are in giving
 life to All. ...

O sacred breath, O
 fire of love ...

O most pure fountain
 through whom it is
 known

that God has united
 strangers
 and inquired after the
 lost. ...

You always draw out
 knowledge,
 bringing joy through
 Wisdom's inspiration.

Therefore, praise be
 to you
 who are the sound of
 praise
 and the greatest prize
 of Life,
 who are hope and
 richest honor
 bequeathing the re-
 ward of Light.

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2020
- Mother's Day, May 10, 2020
- Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 18, 2020
- Ascension Day, May 21, 2020
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2020
- Pentecost, May 31, 2020



+Christian Symbol+



7-Pointed Star

This star represents Isaiah's list of the gifts of the Spirit to be revealed in the Branch of Jesse — that is, Christ: "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2-3, NIV). Some baptism and confirmation liturgies pray for God to "stir up in" the newly baptized or confirmed "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in [God's] presence."





May 2020, LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2019, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 1,282 parents of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, 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/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Raising Healthy Families

As a child, Morgan had endured trauma no one should experience. Addiction, divorce, and difficult family relationships all surrounded Morgan in her childhood home. When she found out she was pregnant for the first time with her daughter, Sophia, Morgan was determined to never repeat the past she grew up with.

She decided to enroll in LSI's Early Childhood Services.

Every week, her LSI worker, Ashley, would bring age-appropriate toys and games for Sophia to play with. She provided Morgan with educational resources to help her track Sophia's development and make sure her daughter was

hitting all her important milestones. When Morgan welcomed her second child, Nolan, Ashley was with her every step of the way. It was Ashley who noticed that Nolan had developed a speech delay, and she helped Morgan connect with a speech therapist to correct it early.

Sophia is now in preschool and loves telling her mom about her teachers, friends, and the new songs she learned at school. Nolan is an active two-year-old who is learning new words every day. Morgan is currently finishing her Registered Nursing degree, and she dreams of working in emergency care at a hospital after graduation. And all the while, Ashley has been there to cheer them on.

"She's been more than a worker, she's been a friend when I've needed someone the most," Morgan says. "Being a new mom is hard. Having that extra person there, who doesn't judge you, who doesn't see your flaws, who is just there to help you – you can't put a price on that."





God's Work—Our Hands

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?

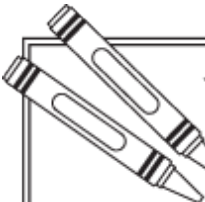
- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord

Answer found on pg. 4

In the March newsletter, we talked about the mission of First Lutheran Church and how we seek to be God's helping hands in our neighborhood and in the world. We encouraged you to let the church office know if you or someone else is in need of help. In this time of social distancing, this may be more important than ever.

Also, if you are able to help out in any way, please let the church office know.

One thing we can all do, is to remember each other and keep in touch by phone. We are grateful to be able to attend the virtual services and even celebrate communion together, but we miss out on the weekly conversation at Fellowship time. Pick up the phone and stay connected!

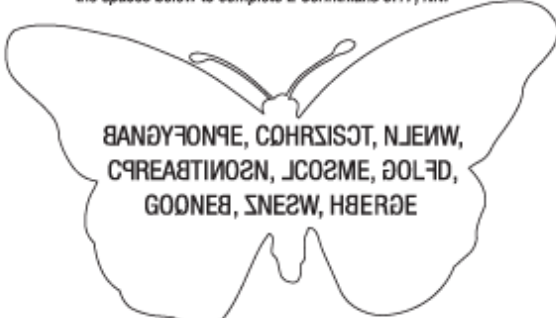


PUZZLE

TransformationPOWER

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



BANGYFONE, COHRSISOT, NJENW,
CPREARTINO2N, JCO2ME, 2OL2D,
GOONEB, 2NE2W, HBERGE

Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ's new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

Prayer Corner



We pray for our families, friends and church family during these unprecedented times of the Covid19 Virus. We pray for the protection of those not infected and for the healing of those who have become infected. We pray that they will trust in God and feel His presence and care each day.

We pray that Christians

around the world and in the U.S. will seek opportunities to advance God's kingdom amid the confusion and fear caused by the pandemic.

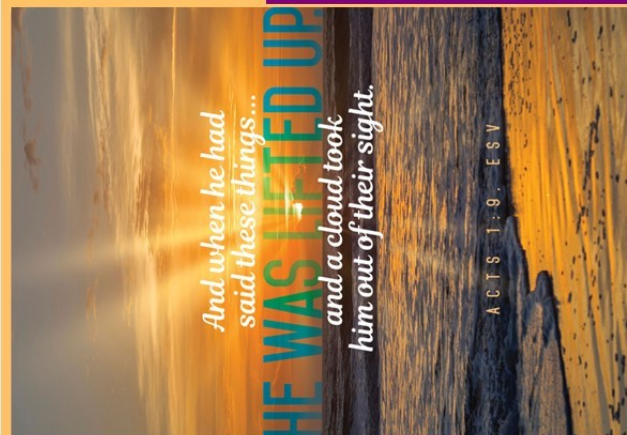
We pray that followers of Christ will see God's goodness amid hardship, sickness and loss caused by the coronavirus and that they will convey His goodness and hope to those around them. Amen.



Next Meeting
May 6th 6:30 pm.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Online worship	4 Happy Birthday Gary Johnson & Heidi Sumpter	5 Happy Birthday Andrew Shockey	6 Happy Birthday Janice Olson	7 Happy Birthday Madison Christy & Halie Dellamuth	8 Happy Birthday Sarah Shockey	9 Happy Birthday Sarah Sandquist & Marv Zimmermann
10 9:30 a.m. Online worship	11 Happy Birthday Darrell Boettcher	12 Happy Birthday Lane Rose	13 Happy Birthday Alice Klopping	14 Happy Birthday Janice Olson Council Meeting	15 Happy Birthday Sarah Shockey	16
17 9:30 a.m. Online worship	18 Happy Birthday Eric Jordan	19	20 Happy Birthday Alice Klopping	21	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Online worship	25	26 Happy Birthday Ben Breuer & Claire Breuer	27	28	29 Happy Birthday Madison Christy & Halie Dellamuth	30
31 Happy Birthday Andrew Weiland 9:30 a.m. Online						



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

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Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

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FIRST
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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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

Phone: 641-792-3934

E-mail:

firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org



The seed that fell among the thorny weeds
is like those who hear God's teaching,
but they let the worries, riches, and pleasures
of this life keep them from growing and
producing good fruit.

LUKE 8:14, NCV