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LUTHERAN
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From Pastor Mark Holmes

As I sit down to write this, I am thinking about all the good folks at First Lutheran and how much I have missed you. I miss greeting you at the door each week. I miss sharing the Lord's Supper with you. I miss good conversation about all that is happening in your life. I never imagined that pastoral ministry could be so lonely!

These are difficult times and because I have never experienced anything like this, I'm sure you're convinced that I'm making this up as we go along. You'd be right. I hope you're getting the chance to go online each week and worship with us on Facebook or on our website.

I give thanks for Jane Johnson and David Goos who are sharing their incredible talents to

make these services possible. I'd be lost without them. You may have noticed that these services seem to get better each week. We are learning so much by trial and error... and maybe someday we'll put together a clip of all the mistakes we've made along the way. I am so thankful for second chances... and third chances and... well, you get the idea!

Our Synod Assembly this year has been delayed until August. I suppose there are some years where we could almost get by without an Assembly, But this year, we are responsible for electing a new Bishop for the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Bishop Michael Burk is retiring after faithfully serving for 12 years as our synodical

Bishop. I have appreciated his friendship and counsel. He will be missed.

Before I close, I do want to thank some anonymous individuals for leaving gifts at my office door. You know who you are. Most of my work is now being done at home as I make calls and prepare worship, but it always brings a smile to my face when I climb the stairs to my office and discover that I haven't been forgotten. Certainly not necessary... but always appreciated. I am so blessed to be part of such a loving family at First Lutheran!

STILL Living in God's
Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes

Help!

The Property Committee is still looking for someone to look after the roses on the South side of

the Church and Southwest of the carport! If you could trim off the spent roses once every week or two that is what we are looking for. If you could do that for a month that would be

appreciated! Hopefully, we can find three or four people to each take a month. If interested either contact the office or Stan Kirchhoff.

Thank you!

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.

Special Prayers

Asking for special prayers during this time for the Johnson family. Gary Johnsons brother Merle Krueger passed away Friday, May 22nd, 2020. He passed due to complications from a stroke. He will be missed and is loved by his family and friends.

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 June **Cereal, Spaghetti Oh's, & Peanut Butter** have been requested. Please take all donations directly to the Salvation army. Thank you for being so generous.

ROAD TRIP TREAT!

Make this snack necklace to enjoy during summer travels.



What you need:

- Dental floss
- Sewing needle
- O-shaped cereal
- Raisins
- Popcorn

What you do:

1. Carefully thread a yard of floss through the needle.
2. String a pattern of cereal, raisins and popcorn on the floss until only 4 inches remain on either end. Tie the two ends together.
3. Repeat to make necklaces for your whole family.
4. When you're ready to eat, simply bite off each "bead." Experiment with other non-perishable foods.

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 sidewalk 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

Seeing stars

The stars shine over the mountains, the stars shine over the sea, The stars look up to the mighty God, the stars look down on me; The stars shall last for a million years, a million years and a day, But God and I will live and love, when the stars have passed away.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



An invitation to rest

Summer calls to mind a slower pace, time off from school and work. But many still face daily demands this time of year: farmers work long hours; teachers may take seasonal work to make ends meet; parents with kids now home all day may catch up on work late at night. Still, may the longer days and warmer weather

beckon you into a bit of free time this season. Listen:

“When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel.”
—Eleanor Brownn (public speaker and educator)

“Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential ... to make sure that your most important decision in the day [is] which color to slide down on the rainbow.”
—Douglas Pagels (author)

“Rest time is not waste time; it is economy to gather fresh strength. ... In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less.” —Charles Spurgeon

“Come to me, all you that are weary ... and I will give you rest. ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” — Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)

Zinga News!

Last month, we learned that Paula Lofstrom, still in Overland Park, is sewing face masks to help limit the spread of the Coronavirus and raise money for the Children's Hospital at Zinga. Her masks are form fitted and attach with strings for a perfect fit. And of course there is a metal insert to keep the mask in place on the nose. The mask comes with a removable HEPA filter, and

can be washed and tumble dried. Complete instructions are included. The outer layer is denim; some are prints, some solid color. A number of churches have ordered these masks since it is such a win/win situation: Keeping safe in a pandemic, and supporting the Children's Hospital at Zinga. The Church Council wants to make it easy for you to get your own set of masks from Paula. We are ordering a

selection, and will let you know when they are available! In Zinga, work goes on. Dr. Charles Powell expects to be returning to the States on June 2, rather than May 18th as first scheduled. In Paula's most recent update you can read about a patient whose diabetes is now under control following the hospital's Diabetes Outreach and Education program. Check it out at <https://www.ihptz.org/blog-1>,

or go to www.ihptz.org and click on IHP Monthly Update. We continue to keep the Children's Hospital, its staff and patients, in our prayers.



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 June 24th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

June Birthdays

06/01 Krista Baumgartner
 06/02 Audrey Lucas
 06/02 Hailey Sumpter
 06/04 Bruce Coyle
 06/05 Dotty Mittelstadt
 06/05 Steve Wright
 06/07 Frances Lucas
 06/08 Nastassia Vitales
 06/10 Robert Floss
 06/10 Easton Kremer
 06/10 Henry Obersteller
 06/11 Corinne Coyle
 06/14 Neal Hayden
 06/17 Donald Monroe
 06/19 Eric Karsten
 06/19 Daniel Vitales
 06/21 Judy Swenson
 06/26 Anna Coyle
 06/27 Kurt VanDam

“Happy Birthday from your church family!”

+Christian Symbol+



Olive

The olive branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The olive branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah’s ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).

The beginning of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn’t a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown

of Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many believe that this was the beginning of Father’s Day.

Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central Church, in Fairmont, West Virginia, held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908. Regardless of which

story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day in 1924.

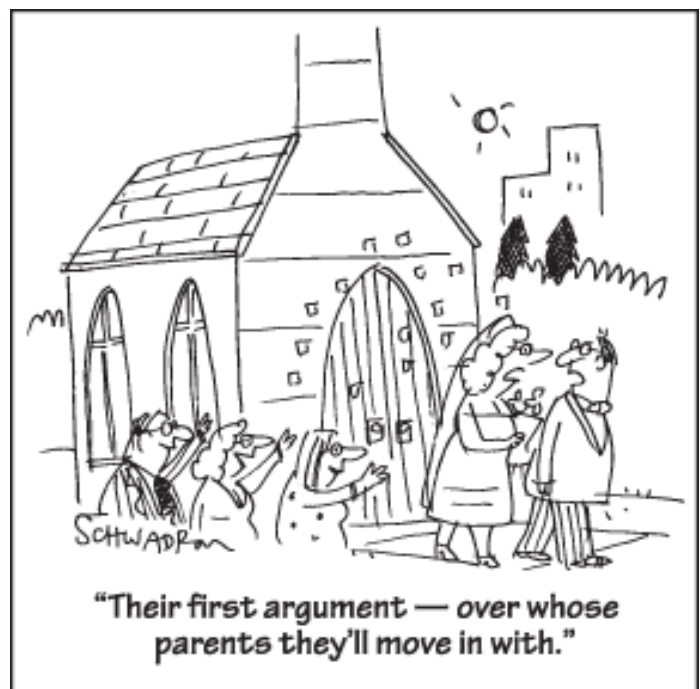


Special dates

- Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020
- Flag Day, June 14, 2020
- First day of summer, June 20, 2020
- Father’s Day, June 21, 2020

He prayeth best who loveth best
 All things, both great and small;
 For the dear God who loveth us,
 He made and loveth all.

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge





June 2020, LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

Through our Early Childhood Services, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.

Many Iowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. And through LSI Foster Care and Adoption, our licensed foster dads are there to help guide them.

This is only possible through your support of LSI! If you would like to make a gift, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Debrah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

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.

Creating Her Community

Paulynn had a dream of what she wanted in life: lots of friends, a job she loved, a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of community.

But it was difficult for Paulynn to leave the apartment she shared with her dad, Lee. Though Lee had dedicated his life to serving as his daughter's primary caregiver, they didn't have reliable transportation that could accommodate her wheelchair. And Paulynn's risk of seizures meant she always needed to be accompanied by her dad.

Despite the obstacles, Lee was determined to give his daughter the life she dreamed of. He enrolled her in LSI's Services for People with Disabilities.

Fifteen years later, Paulynn's dream has become a reality.

Through LSI, Paulynn's team provides transportation that allows her to travel to and from her apartment with ease. While Paulynn is out, Lee is able to take a well-deserved break from his caregiving role.

With support from LSI, Paulynn is able to give back to her community. Each week, she helps package meals for individuals in need. She has created a community of her own through her volunteer work. And for every moment, her LSI team is there to support her.



Happy Father's Day



God's Work—Our Hands

We are, indeed, charged with doing God's work on earth. And in this time, when our familiar routines are disrupted, many of us, and our friends and neighbors, may be in need of a helping hand. The church is here to help! If you are aware of an unmet need, please let the church office know.

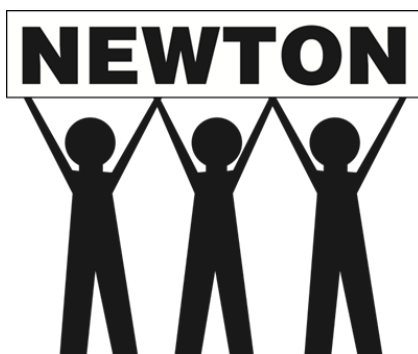
Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest

Answer found on pg. 4

As a visual reminder of our commitment to help, Eric Jordan has created a logo for our congregation's focus on God's Work. Our Hands. The figures remind us that together, we are strong. Thank you, Eric, for this inspirational artwork!



Stay Home,
Stay safe,
Stay Healthy



No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.



- Start at the SHIP.**
Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N _ _ _
- Start at the WORLD.**
Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE _ _
- Start at the SUITCASE.**
Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E _ _ _
- Start at the PLANE.**
Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W _ _
- Start at the CAR.**
Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW _ _ _
- Start at the SIGN.**
Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW _ _ _ _ _

The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng both no_ and for_ vermored. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Prayer Corner



Gracious Father in heaven, your Son taught us to be anxious about nothing and to let the day's cares be sufficient for the day. These days have been hard and full of anxiety. Still our minds and hearts, we pray. Grant us nights of restful sleep and refreshment. Watch over us, our families, our neighbors, our communities, our nation, and all the nations of the world. Preserve us from

discord and strife. Endow our leaders with wisdom and sound judgment. Protect us from every evil of body and soul. And remind us of your ever good and gracious will to save and to bless. As you have reconciled the world and all things to yourself in the death of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, so grant to us all a measure of your peace. For your Name's sake, we pray. Amen.



PROPERTY
Committee
NO
meetings
Until
further
notice.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 1 Happy Birthday Krista Baumgartner | 2 Happy Birthday Audrey Lucas & Hatley Sumpter | 3 | 4 Happy Birthday Bruce Coyle | 5 Happy Birthday Dotty Mittelstadt & Steve Wright | 6 |
| 7 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Fran Lucas | 8 Happy Birthday Nastassia Vitales | 9 | 10 Happy Birthday Bob Floss, Easton Krenner, & Henry Obersteller | 11 Council Meeting Happy Birthday 6:30 pm Corinne Coyle | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Neal Hayden | 15 | 16 | 17 Happy Birthday Donald Monroe | 18 | 19 Happy Birthday Eric Karsten & Daniel Vitales | 20 |
| 21 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Judy Swenson | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Happy Birthday Anna Coyle | 27 Happy Birthday Kurt Van Dam |
| 28 9:30 a.m. Online worship | 29 | 30 | | | | |



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