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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

N



NOVEMBER 2020

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*From Pastor Mark Holmes*

**From My  
Basement...  
(yes, the pandemic is  
still raging!)**

As you consider your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure... consider this. Life is full of strange twists and turns. The story is told of a church building that burned to the ground. Determined to rebuild, the church board secured pledges from the congregation and then set out to secure a bank loan.

The bank refused. Their logic was that a church of only fifty members was no longer viable in the real world. A second bank, however, gave them a twentyyear mortgage, which the members paid off in eight years.

As the congregation celebrated the burning of the

mortgage, the pastor reminded the congregation of the history of the loan. The church, that was once judged by the first bank to be dead, was still very much alive!

But here's the rest of the story. That first bank, that refused to give them a loan, was now gone! That's right. A larger bank had bought them out and closed the bank. The bank was dead... but the church was very much alive!

My friends, we are that church! In the midst of hard times... even a pandemic... we are still very much alive! Sometimes we limit ourselves and the work of our congregation because we believe we're not "big enough" to get the job done. But I have seen some incredible things happen in this congregation in the last

3 ½ years. (Yes, I've been here that long!)

When things looked difficult, someone always stepped up and said, "Here am I, Lord. Send me!" So, thank you. Thank you for saying "yes" when God called. Thank you for stepping up when no one else would. Thank you for using the incredible gifts that have come as blessings from your gracious Heavenly father.

As we look forward to a new year, we need you now more than ever. Please pray about your response to the amazing blessings that God continues to pour out upon us. Please pray about how you might make a meaningful difference in the Kingdom of God! *Living in God's Amazing Grace!*

*Pastor Mark Holmes*



*All Saints' Day*  
November 1st

## Updated Directories

I will be doing updates to our Membership Directory. If you have any changes from our current Directory please let me know.

You can call the office at 641-792-3934 or you can email me at [office@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@newtonfirstlutheran.org)

## 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 November

**Canned Sweet potatoes, Baked Beans, & Stovetop** have been requested.

Please take all donations directly to the Salvation Army  
Mon-Fri 8 am—4 pm

Thank you for being so generous.

## A taste of history

Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



### What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt

### What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

## News from Congregational Council

Our last meeting was October 8th. We met via Zoom. We continue to review having in person worship but with school starting and an uptick in cases of Covid, we decided to stay with what we are doing. (This will be reviewed monthly.) Currently with Iowa being one of the top 8 hotspots the Synod is urging people not to gather yet. Before we can have in person worship, we will need to review guidelines to get the church ready.

Thinking ahead to the General meeting and the Annual meeting, we will need to be prepared to do this via Zoom (unless something changes by then). Stewardship is being organized by Dave Goos and Bryan Friedman will have something ready for Time & Talent information. (You will be receiving this by either

email or regular mail.) Council was presented with an opportunity to do a community meal. Jane Johnson and our secretary, Nicole Vitales, is willing to help get this organized in the near future. We received a gift of \$750 from Synod in their response to helping after the derecho storm. We thought offering a free meal to the community would be a good idea. The funds that remain after the supper will be given to the Salvation Army to help others in need in our area. If you recall, Council changed the count for members from nine to six this year. Two people will be finishing their term at years end; Marie Quanbeck, and Lynette Birkenholz. If anyone has interest in serving in this capacity, contact one of the council members. We reviewed continuing God's

Work Our Hands, and a recent suggestion was to wash windows for someone in the congregation.

We thought why just honor "God's Work Our Hands" for one month (October)? Let's open it up and be available to address needs of our church family any time of the year. If you know of a need, or need something yourself – please contact the church office or any council member and we will do what we can to help. Information from Property Committee was that the tile for the roof has been ordered. Duane

Quanbeck recently poured concrete in the boiler room in preparation of using some of that space for custodial item storage. Our elevator is in need of repair and we are waiting to hear back from the company. Marie



Quanbeck shared with Council about International Health Partners. Paula and Denny will be presenting something to the congregation by Zoom on Sunday, October 18th. Marie has plans to travel down to the Kansas City area to meet

up with them for merchandise. Pastor reported that a new Bishop, Pastor Amy Current, will be installed October 10th. Next Council meeting will be November 12th. If any one has suggestions or concerns, please contact any of the

Council members:  
Jim Lammey, President  
Marie Quanbeck, Vice President  
Corrine Coyle, Co-Treasurer  
Lynette Birkenholz, Secretary  
Jane Johnson Bryan Friedman

### Zinga News! A Bus for Nurses! IHP news

October's Choices in Mission focus was on raising money for a bus to transport students from the School of Nursing at St. John's University in Dodoma to the hospitals where they serve their practicums. As Paula Lofstrom explained in her Octo-

ber 18 message, the nursing school has 1400 students and there are simply not enough hospital beds in the Dodoma area for all of them to complete the practicum component of their education locally. Many have to travel to distant hospitals. The bus we are helping to provide

will be a great benefit as we support IHP in the important work of bringing quality healthcare to Tanzania. Hopefully, we will have a photo of that bus in the December newsletter! A big thank-you to all who took advantage of the Choices in Mission matching funds up to \$5,000 to double the



impact of your gift!

*To the unknown gift fairy:  
Thank you so much for the thoughtful gifts of gratitude. I know it makes each of us feel appreciated and loved.  
Pastor Mark, Dave, Nicole, and Jane.*



Community Meal

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



- Nicole George 11/01
- Tiffany Ketcham 11/01
- Shad Marvelli 11/02
- Andrew Ketcham 11/03
- Betty Peterson 11/08
- James Baker 11/11
- Brock Jordan 11/13
- Carolyn Kirchoff 11/13
- Dennis Porter 11/14
- Larry Birkenholz 11/16
- Brittany McNeer 11/16
- Marjorie Baker 11/19
- Dennis Dobesh 11/22
- Mary Ann Iske 11/23



**derecho! derecho! derecho!**

Yes it did hit First Lutheran Church!

The first damage was the metal roof from the First Christian Church which blew off in one piece and knocked two utility poles down and damaged two others in the alley.

The large piece of roofing damaged our Educational roof and knocked off nine courses of bricks and cement top pieces. The roof came to rest in the alley against our building and covering most of the street.

As many of you have found out that if it lands on your property it is your problem.

The tile roof has many tiles missing by the bell tower and many tiles were lifted up and can cause problems in the future. Therefore, it will be replaced.

Church Mutual our Insurance carrier was very prompt and had two adjusters here early Wednesday morning.

They have bids in place to replace the entire tile roof

Denny Ross will be doing the brick repair on the Educational Unit

Roofing project to repair Educational roof due to damage from the Christian Church roof.

Car Country was paid \$3000 to remove the blue roof from the alley and street.

(although I contacted the city they said it was our property and our problem)

Uprooted large bushy tree in our courtyard

Estimated Costs \$400,000 to \$500,000 for tile roof

\$3,000 Roof demolition \$30,000 Shrink Wrap to protect our interior Yes, we are the church with the White Roof!

\$10,000 plus for Brick Work \$30,000 estimated for Educational Unit

Our deductible is \$1,000 Our prayers that no one was injured and Our Church Mutual Insurance Company was very prompt in assessing damages.

The tile is being manufactured and will take some time it be delivered.





## November 2020, , 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's director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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).

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### “There is Hope”

As a young child growing up in multiple foster homes, Abby dreamed of a forever family. When she moved in with foster parents Joe and Dee, Abby knew she'd found the perfect family for her. Joe and Dee had already adopted two of their sons by the time Abby entered the family, and the children immediately bonded. When Abby was no longer able to reunify with her birth family, Joe and Dee decided to adopt her into their family. “The kids bless our lives,” Joe says. “I wish people knew what kind of family you can have through foster care and adoption, and how much love these kids have to offer.” Abby is now a 17-year-old preparing to graduate high school in the spring. She has found a

forever family that encourages her to pursue her passions and with the support of her parents and siblings, Abby has found success as a high school wrestler, earning top awards and titles throughout her high school years.

Since being adopted into Joe and Dee's family, Abby has openly shared her story at National Adoption Month events in her community. She wants to raise awareness about foster care and adoption across Iowa, inspire families to become foster and adoptive parents, and she hopes her story can inspire other kids looking for the same loving support system she has.

“To other kids out there in my situation, there is hope,” Abby says. “You will find the perfect family that will give you all their love and care for you, no matter what.”



Thank you for everyone who continues to help with "God's Work. Our Hands"



### Baskets and carvings available now!

In years past, a popular part of Paula and Denny Lofstrom's visit has been the gift items available in "Paula's Store." Although the Lofstroms were unable to be here this time, the Church Council arranged for items to be available for anyone who would like to find a unique Christmas present or maybe treat themselves to a little piece of Tanzania. If you would like to see this year's selection, call or text Marie Quanbeck at 641-521-4410, or e-mail her at [mhquanbeck@gmail.com](mailto:mhquanbeck@gmail.com) to line up a time. Masks and social distancing



### Thrivent News:

Supporting our community is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. Thrivent members can apply and be approved to lead the effort. Anyone who owns a Thrivent product (and there are plenty of folks at First that do) can apply and get the ball rolling. It's fast and easy to apply and approval comes within a day or two. An Action Team can provide up to \$250 in a credit card to fund an educational event, a service project, or a fundraiser. Our hope is that anytime someone at First learns there is a need to enhance or provide for an educational activity (like Sunday school, Bible study, CPR training, local school needs...), service activity (paint the church, clean up day, purchase Bibles, provide lunch for teachers, supplies and treats for first responders, community meals, sweet corn boil,

support mental health groups, animal shelter...), or fundraiser (to help support efforts to supply food, blankets, clothing, hygiene products for children or adults, mission activities...) someone will wonder if Thrivent would help us with this. I may seem like I am a broken record, but sometimes the options for obtaining Thrivent support is limited only by lack of awareness that the Action Teams are available to help. The needs are many and you don't have to be a Thrivent member to identify a need. If you want some help, please ask. Betty and I are willing to help locate and assist Thrivent members who could then apply to lead the Action Teams. Each member can lead two Action Teams a year and that amounts to \$500. Let us know if you want to see how this might apply to meeting some unmet needs. Craig and Betty Peterson [Craig@partnercom.net](mailto:Craig@partnercom.net)



Next Meeting  
Wednesday  
November 4th  
at 6:30!



# NOVEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Nicole George & Tiffany Ketcham	2 Happy Birthday Shad Marvelli	3 Happy Birthday Andrew Ketcham	4 Property Meeting 6:30 pm	5	6	7
8 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Betty Peterson	9	10	11 Happy Birthday James Baker	12 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	13 Happy Birthday Brock Jordan & Carolyn Kirchhoff	14 Happy Birthday Dennis Porter
15 9:30 a.m. Online worship	16 Happy Birthday Larry Birkenholz	17	18	19 Happy Birthday Marjorie Baker	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Dennis Dobesh	23 Happy Birthday Mary Ann Iske	24	25 Community Meal	26 THANKSGIVING Dinner	27	28
29 9:30 a.m. Online worship	30 Advent Begins					



## 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



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



### *Free Harvest Meal*

All are welcome and no questions asked.  
Please join us for a drive thru event . We will be  
proving free meals to anyone that would like one.  
Follow the arrows & let us know how many dinners  
you will be needing and we will bring them to your  
vehicle.

Where : First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
309 E. 3rd St. N. Newton, Iowa 50208  
If you have questions please call  
(641)792-3934

When: **Saturday, November 8th, 2020**  
From: **5:00 PM till gone**

Cost: ***FREE TO ALL***

