

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



Page 1

From Pastor Mark Holmes

**From My
Basement...**

I came out of the basement this past week to come together with other folks for “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday. There was an abundance of hard work as we cleaned up several yards hit by the derecho. You may have seen pictures of the mountains of brush, branches, and logs that we piled up for the City of Newton to haul away.

It was wonderful to finally see folks after being apart for so long. (Although it was difficult to see faces as we wore masks most of the time!) I enjoyed the time I could spend with these folks in spite of the hard work and heavy lifting that needed to be done. I

have missed our time together, and I look forward to gathering with all of you soon!

The Church Council continues to look at the possibility of returning to in-person worship. The benchmark for our “first phase return” is the number of cases must be declining for several weeks in Jasper County. At present, those numbers aren’t looking too good for us. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to social distance, wear a mask, and wash their hands often. Yes... no one wants to do it, but we do it for our own safety and for the safety of others. Let’s all do what we need to do and defeat the virus! If we can’t... or won’t do this, it will only delay our return to worship!

In other news... Pastor Amy Current will be installed as the next Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod on Sunday, October 10, 2020 at St. John Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, Iowa. She served at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque prior to her election as Bishop. Please keep her in your prayers as we begin a new chapter in this synod under her leadership. Maybe she’ll have better luck finding you a real pastor!

Please know that while I joke about my interim status a lot, I do love my work here and am content to stay as long as it takes to bring a great pastor to First Lutheran Church!

*Living in God’s Amazing
Grace!*

Pastor Mark Holmes

Thank you

I would like to thank the crew that came to my house and cleaned up my back yard from branches that fell later after the storm. They did an outstanding job and I really appreciate all they did. The city picked up those branches the very next morning. It was great.

-Julie Brown-

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

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 October **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.

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.



What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.

A reminder for Thrivent members about Action Teams:

A reminder for Thrivent members about Action Teams: Betty and I often hear of things the church or others in the local community are doing to help those in need which could be a potential Thrivent Action Team project. Each Thrivent member has the ability to do two \$250 Action Team projects each year provided by Thrivent. Betty and I are already committed to our two projects for 2020, but I would guess that there are a multitude of Thrivent members at First who have not decided what to do with the \$500 they could receive for projects this year. Here is a link to some basic information about how you can make a difference with an

Action Team: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html> Here is a link where you can see what others around the country are doing with their Action Teams: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/community/thrivent-action-teams/detail> I just took a look at this last link and I see so many good ideas: Fund raiser for a local animal rescue, supplies for a Lutheran Church Quilting group, school supplies for returning students, preparing and sending Lutheran World Relief Kits... Currently the Newton Library is hosting a clothing drive for students at Newton Schools (that could be supported by an Action Team) and the church is frequently looking for support and donations for

the community meals, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors efforts, and the recent project helping to clean up after the derecho. There are so many needs that our Thrivent members could help with, and it is a fairly simple process. It could be that Thrivent Action Teams have helped with these efforts, but, if not, they could have. Betty and I willing to help anyone who has an idea or an interest in helping to get the word out, and to help in drafting the initial Action Team application on line.

Craig and Betty Peterson



21-Day Equity Challenge

Racism can be very confusing. Racism exists in many forms. What most persons understand as racism is the personal expression of racism. But racism is much deeper and broader than that. We are all called upon to learn about the many expressions of racism, to understand how

deep it is, and how persons in both the dominant and non-dominant cultures experience, and live with, racism. The United Way of Iowa is sponsoring a 21-Day Equity Challenge to better comprehend how inequity and racism affect our lives and our communities. This challenge will deepen

understanding, suggest ways to take action, and help launch lifelong commitment to improving equity and inclusion in our communities. It is free to participate in this challenge. Every weekday from October 5 – November 2, you will receive emails with helpful articles, videos, podcasts, etc. based off topics such as Under-

standing Privilege, Housing & Redlining, Justice System Inequities, Allyship, and more. To register for the challenge or discover other topics that will be covered, visit <https://www.unitedwaydm.org/equity-challenge>.
Judy Monroe

Zinga News!

We welcome Paula and Denny online in October!

October is here again, and we are set to welcome Paula and Denny Lofstrom, but not in person this time. On the Sunday when they were to have visited, October 18, they will instead participate in our worship service via a recorded segment bringing us up-to-date on

what is happening at Zinga. With the money raised through the challenge grant, work is progressing on completing the Mary Ellen Kitundu Memorial Birthing Center. Next on the schedule: completing the Neonatal ICU building and the Pediatric ICU building.

Our October Choices in Mission focus is the Children's Hospital at Zinga. The congregation's mission fund will

match our donations dollar for dollar up to \$2,500, so let us give as we feel led and help meet this next goal.

We are grateful for the difference the Children's Hospital is making in the lives of the people of Zinga, and look forward to Paula's message.



***To the unknown gift fairy. We all enjoyed our tub of goodies and the appreciative thoughts. Until we can gather together.....
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 October 28th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.



Christine Breuer 10/04
 Teresa Weiland 10/05
 Bradley Portner 10/06
 Christopher Shockey 10/06
 David Goos 10/08
 Alicia Troen 10/09
 Steve Comer 10/11
 Clayton Wright 10/13
 Brenda Hodnett 10/17
 Gabriel Wright 10/17
 Marie Quanbeck 10/22
 Laird Trusler 10/26
 Jodi Portner 10/27
 David Troen 10/27
 Matthew Coyle 10/28
 Ruth Kelly 10/28
 Carolyn Hesse 10/29
 Ken Weiland 10/29
 Aaron Bartholmey 10/30
 Emmeline Ketcham 10/30
 Tom Sharp 10/30
 Marc Dellamuth 10/31



Stewardship

This year's stewardship emphasis recognizes the difficulties, hardships, and sense of loss that many of us have experienced during the past 6 months. Yet at the same time we know that through it all God is here. Please take a few minutes to read through an overview of the lessons from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center titled Faith, Hope, and Love.

David Goos, Co-Treasurer



These Three Remain...Faith, Hope, and Love

Thinking theologically about the way forward

A global pandemic. Civil unrest. A society divided. A church struggling to find its place. These seismic shifts make us feel like we are on shaky ground. Our familiar church lives have been disrupted. Many of us don't know when we will be able to participate in face-to-face worship again. Camps and conferences have been canceled. Sunday school and youth groups are meeting online, if at all. The routine elements of pastoral ministry such as meeting with parishioners in homes, hospitals, and the church office are different or nonexistent. Face-to-face board and committee meetings are not happening or are cautionary tales. How do we prepare a way forward when we don't know exactly what to prepare for?

While right now the amount seems more than manageable, it is important to remember that change has always been with us. The North American twenty-first century church is not the church of the first century—nor the fifteenth, the eighteenth, nor even the twentieth. We are the "stewards of God's mysteries" (1 Cor 4:1) for this time and this place. But regardless of the circumstances and changes we encounter, there are some biblical and theological certainties in which we can trust and that can calm our anxieties.

- **God will go with us into the unknown.** From God's promise to Abram to "go to a land I will show you" to Jesus' words that "I will be with you to the end of the age", we know that whatever the landscape of the church looks

like in the near or distant future, God will be there. This is a good time to remember that the words *fear not* appear over 150 times in the Bible. Even in the wilderness God provided, and can be trusted to do so again and again.

- **The body of Christ will not die.** The Judeo-Christian tradition is based in communion with God and each other, beginning with Genesis where God declares that it is "not good to be alone", to Revelation where it is prophesied that the nations will walk together in the New Jerusalem.
- **The true mission of the church will remain relevant.** When Abram receives the invitation to be blessed by God it is not only for him individually, but for the legacy of his progeny—by whom all the nations will be blessed. Jesus echoes this love in John 3:16 and Matthew 28:19. Our hurting world needs the church to practice the healing balm found in passages like Matthew 5 and Matthew 25.

Thank you to everyone for your faithful giving during these strange times. First Lutheran continues to move forward despite these challenges. There will be a financial update and year-end projection coming out in later October.



October 2020, , LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Warming Hearts with God's Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Path to Healing

When 14-year-old Bri first came to LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, she was struggling with aggression, frequently ran away, and had a hard time focusing in school. And as she was trying to heal from years of trauma, Bri's beloved grandpa suddenly passed away. She felt stuck and nothing was getting better, no matter what she tried. But her Beloit team was there to cheer her on.

The LSI team at Beloit provides 24-7 mental health treatment for Iowa children who have often experienced years of trauma, abuse, or neglect. Staff members are there to encourage children on

their path to hope and healing, and they were there to lift up Bri when she decided to make a positive change in her life. Bri began actively participating in individual and group therapy sessions provided at Beloit, and she made it a point to encourage her peers on campus every day. Her Beloit team helped her to feel more comfortable opening up about her grief, and staff members were there to remind her of all the progress she had made to help her stay focused on the positives.

After months of hard work, Bri found a loving foster family and was able to leave Beloit's programming. And while she felt uncertain and anxious about leaving, she knew she was ready to move forward.

Bri continues to keep in touch with the team at Beloit, providing details on her new life, school, and her new room at home. Bri's anxiety about the unknown has diminished, she feels confident communicating her emotions, and she has hope for the future.



Thank you to everyone that helped
with
“God’s Work. Our Hands”



By the Grace of God

The Reverend Amy LuAnn Current
is called as the fourth bishop of the
Southeastern Iowa Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
She will be installed at a Service of the Word on
Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
will preach and preside.



Following safe practices in a time of pandemic,
your prayers and digital presence are requested for this
distributed worship service that will be broadcast live
from St. John Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, Iowa.

All are welcome to join worship via livestream.
For materials and more information visit
seiasynod.org/installation



Next Meeting
Wednesday
October 7th at
6:30!



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Christine Breuer	5 Happy Birthday Bradley Portner & Teresa Weiland	6 Happy Birthday Bradley Portner & Christopher Shockey	7 Property Meeting 6:30 pm	8 Happy Birthday David Goos Council Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Happy Birthday Alicia Troen	10
11 9:30 a.m. Online worship Happy Birthday Steve Comer	12	13 Happy Birthday Clayton Wright	14	15	16 Happy Birthday Brenda Hodnet & Gabriel Wright	17
18 9:30 a.m. Online worship	19	20	21	22 Happy Birthday Marie Quanbeck	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Online worship Reformation Sunday	26 Happy Birthday Laird Trusler	27 Happy Birthday Jodi Portner & David Troen	28 Community Meal Happy Birthday Matthew Coyle & Ruth Kelly	29 Happy Birthday Carolyn Hesse & Ken Weiland	30 Happy Birthday Aaron Bartholmey, Emmeline Ketcham, & Tom Sharp	31 Happy Birthday Marc Dellamuth



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

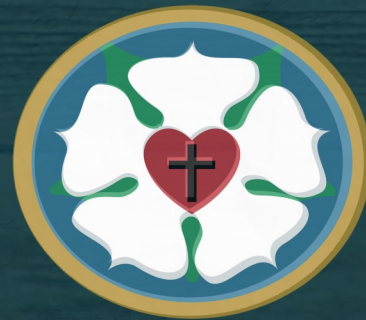
**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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

Phone: 641-792-3934

E-mail:

firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org



October 25th, 2020
REFORMATION
SUNDAY