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Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

1:00—5:00 p.m.

or by appointment



FEBRUARY 2021

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From Pastor Mark Holmes

How quickly time flies! Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 2021. We have decided to proceed with Midweek services during the season of Lent. Like our Sunday services, these will also be pre-recorded and available any time on Facebook or on our website. We hope you will remember to make this a part of your Lenten journey. Please take the opportunity to invite others to “join us” as well.

I will be available on Ash Wednesday in the church sanctuary from 2pm to 4pm to do the Imposition of Ashes and provide Holy Communion. For those who feel safe coming, please put this on your schedule. You may come at any time during those hours.

Please wear a mask when entering the building and practice social distancing. You may approach the altar when the person in front of you has finished. I will have both a shield and mask on; as well as sanitizing my hands between each person. You may also sanitize your hands before you leave.

If you do happen to come to church on that day, please take the opportunity to pick up offering envelopes, giving statements, and extra pre-filled communion cups if you have not done so. All of these will be available at that time.

As a part of our Lenten Midweek services, I will be having a “fireside chat” each week, recounting the struggles that Jesus encountered

during His final week on this earth according to the Gospel of Mark. I hope these spiritually motivating stories will challenge you to re-examine your faith and commitment to God’s mission and ministry. As a part of our worship, we will also be singing many of the great Lenten hymns. You won’t want to miss it!

STILL Living in Gods Amazing Grace!
Pastor Mark Holmes

Bible Quiz



What was the name of Moses’ wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, 2021
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2021
- Presidents Day, February 15, 2021
- Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Thank you

...Thank you to my church family for your prayers and encouraging words as I have been recovering from my hip replacement.
Lynette Birkenholz

Thank you

...Thank you to all of the members of First Lutheran for all the cards, cookies and phone calls while I am here permanently at Newton Village. I am looking forward to getting back to regular services to spend time with each of you. It is hard being here and confined. The friendships I have made at First has been a blessing in my life. It means the world to me ,Thank you.

Ruth Kelly



Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.
—Max Lucado, Fearless

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 months of February.

Lg. Canned Soup,
Boxed Potatoes,
Ramon Noodles, and Cereal

have been requested.

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

Thank you for being so generous.



The power of love

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."

Lent begins on February 17.

Lent begins on February 17. What will your Lenten spiritual journey look like this year? The Service Committee is planning options for several ways to be involved in a Lenten spiritual journey, something to cater various levels of involvement: a few days, all of Lent and Easter seasons, individually or with a small group. Interested in a sneak peak? Check out this website: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>



Zinga News! Where is Dodoma?

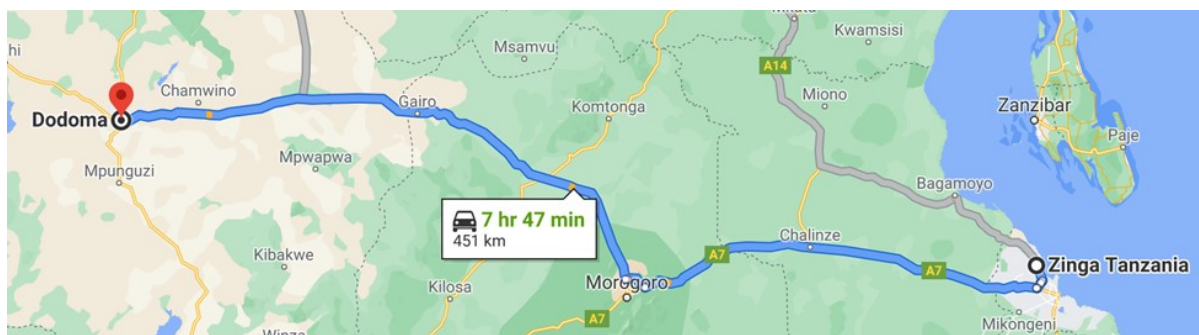
Last October, First Lutheran contributed generously to the purchase of a refurbished bus to transport nursing students at the St. John's University of Tanzania School of Nursing in Dodoma to their practicum locations and to provide medical education and services in nearby villages. But where and what is Dodoma?



Dodoma, near the geographical center of the country, was chosen as the site for the capital city in 1974, although it did not officially become the capital until 1996. Dar es Salaam, the historical capital city on the coast, was deemed too far away from the western regions to be practical. But because of its cultural and historical significance, Dar es Salaam remains an important center, and while the parliament meets in Dodoma, many national offices remain in Dar es Salaam, population 7,046,900.

In 1974, when Dodoma was chosen as the future seat of government, it was a town of 40,000. Today, it is a city of nearly 411,000.

The maps show Dodoma in Tanzania, and also where it is located in relation to Zinga, which is about 30 miles north of Dar. (451 kilometers is about 280 miles) Nyakato, where the First Lutheran team volunteered in 2008, is near Mwanza at the upper left of the map.



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



Marlys Amundsen 02/04
 Arthur III Greve 02/05
 Jane Johnson 02/10
 Katie Cantu 02/12
 Sarah Grunig 02/12
 Andrew Lammey 02/14
 Jayne Goos 02/15
 Terry Ve Verka 02/15
 Bryan Friedman 02/23
 Alex Anderson 02/27
 Bethany Baumgartner 02/27
 Evelyn George 02/27
 Ashlyn Karsten 02/27

Attention Thrivent Members: You may have Choice Dollars you can direct Thrivent to send to First Lutheran Church!

Thrivent Choice Dollars from last year (2020) must be directed by March 31! If you have them, you can use them; it is "use it or lose it" time. It doesn't cost you a thing to have Thrivent give money to First Lutheran Church, or for that matter another qualifying organization of your choice. Here is a link to a brief description of the program: [Thrivent Choice Fun Facts Flyer PDF](#) If you have a Thrivent product and wonder if you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you can call 800-847-4836 and, when prompted, say **Thrivent Choice**. They can help you find out.

If you want to check this out on-line, here is the **Directing Choice Dollars® and Personal Giving: A How-To Guide**

If you have questions, Betty and I would be able to help you find the answers.

Craig and Betty Peterson

Direct Choice Dollars Online

1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice
2. Click **Direct Choice Dollars**.
3. Log in by entering your User ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click **Register for account access**.)
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **Direct Now** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **View activity history** link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **Search**.
 - **5. Choose Direct All or enter a specific number and click Direct Now.** Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say Thrivent Choice.
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct **Choice Dollars**.



February 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065. Thank you for the love you share and create

through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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).

Building a Bond

Julie had made a promise years ago: If anything happened to her friend, Julie would take care of her son, Jacob.

When Jacob's mom passed away and he had no place to go, Julie stepped up. Her six children had grown up and moved out of her home, and she had the resources and space needed to care for Jacob. She became a mentor through LSI's Host Homes program. The service enables Iowans with disabilities to move into a private family home and live with a specially-selected mentor instead of

living in a shared space with roommates and several staff members. Jacob moved into Julie's home last December and now, the two are thriving. Jacob is learning to take care of himself and build the life skills he needs to feel more confident and independent. He is learning to cook and enjoys looking up new recipes to try, especially meatloaf.

"It's a great opportunity. You're changing their lives," Julie says. "You get to know each other more personally. We have a lot of discussions and heart-to-hearts." Jacob is finishing his senior year of high school. He enjoys learning new things and visiting new places, and he dreams of the day when he and Julie can go on more trips. Once it is safe to do so, Jacob is determined to visit more zoos and take a trip to Canada.

"It's good," Jacob says of his Host Homes match with Julie. "She makes me laugh."



Church Council Meeting Review :

Church Council met by zoom on December 10th. Faith Formations is planning a virtual Christmas program called "Mary, you're on mute". The General meeting was held by Zoom on Dec 6th . The 2021 budget was approved and voted in two new council

members: Eric Jordan and Kay Hesse. Council suggested getting the annual report out to everyone by email or mailings and hold off on an annual meeting (we usually have at the end of January). When we get back to regular services, then we could set-up break out groups. President Jim Lammey attended a recent Zoom meeting with Bishop Current. The Bishop wants to meet with council president, the Pastor, and two other people from the congregation. Jane Johnson and Robyn Freidman will volunteer their time. The Service committee "Advent Calendar of giving" was delivered to the Salvation

Army on December 7th by Duane Quanbeck. Their next project is setting up "Bury the Altar", which starts January 10th and will run thru February 14th . Property reported that the 4th work crew was here working on the roof – hopefully it will be secured for the winter ahead. The elevator was scheduled to get repaired. Unfortunately after the 1 ½" rain we received earlier, leaks were discovered from the new addition area. That part was not related to the storm damage. The roof was sealed in the areas where the flashing was separated. Stan was able to get one bid for \$22,000 but he is still seeking other bids for that repair. The next Council meeting will be February 11th by Zoom. If anyone has suggestions/concerns, please contact any of your Council member. Services will continue on line, following guidance from the Bishop.

January Council Meeting

Your Council Reps:
Jane (Worship),
Jim (Faith Formations),
Corinne (Service),
Bryan (Stewardship),
Eric (Property),
Kay (Fellowship).

The Synod Assembly meeting will be a one day event online. Pastor Mark and Jim will attend and Jim plans to reach out to two other members of the congregation to participate as well.

Jim, Mark, and Jane reported on the Zoom meeting with Bishop Current. Jim reported that she said we are not alone with our shrinking and aging congregation and we need to just keep inviting people to come (both in person and by remote). She also knows we are still seeking a Pastor to call. Jane reported that she had us share joys and concerns, and was impressed with our vast outreach projects, loved the way we conduct our congregational January meeting, and plans to visit our online services to catch this year's children's program. Pastor Mark added that her message was clearly, we are not alone and God is with us always. It was a productive first meeting with her.

A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness.

Amen.



Next Meeting
Wednesday
March 4th



| 2021 | | FEBRUARY | | | | | 2021 | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Property Meeting 6:30 pm | 4 Happy Birthday Marlys Amundsen | 5 Happy Birthday Art Greve | 6 | | |
| Bury the Altar drop off. 10:30am 9:30 a.m. - Noon Online worship | 8 | 9 | 10 Happy Birthday Jane Johnson | 11 Council Meeting 6:30 pm | 12 Happy Birthday Katie Cantu & Sarah Grunig | 13 | | |
| Bury the Altar drop off. 10:30am 9:30 a.m. - Noon Online worship | 15 Happy Birthday Jayne Goos & Terry Ve Verka | 16 | 17 Ashes & Holy Communion 2-4 PM | 18 | 19 | 20 | | |
| Happy Birthday Andrew Lamney | 22 | 23 Happy Birthday Bryan Friedman | 24 Community Meal | 25 | 26 | 27 Happy Birthday Alex Anderson, Bethany Baumgartner, Evelyn George, & Ashlyn Karsten | | |
| 21 9:30 a.m. Online worship | | | | | | | | |
| 28 9:30 a.m. Online worship | | | | | | | | |



Lent

Create in me
a clean heart,
O God, and
renew a right
spirit within me.
PSALM 51:10, ESV

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
by appointment

Monthly mission for:
January & February
Bury the Altar.
Drop off will be every
Sunday Jan. 10th-Feb 14th.
At the east entrance.
10:30am –12:00pm
We will be accepting
Non-perishable food items and
monetary donations that will be
matched.

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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&
(on Facebook at)
First Lutheran Church-
Newton

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E-mail:

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Ash
WEDNESDAY
February 17th