

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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1:00—5:00 p.m.

or by appointment

M



MAY

2021

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From Pastor Mark Holmes

Let's reconnect! I have missed our time together! As we move back to in-person worship, it is a joy to see folks... or at least what I can see behind those masks! I have been fully vaccinated as I'm sure many of you have been as well.

If you are hesitant to come back to worship, we understand! This pandemic has been hard on all of us and we take it very seriously! Our church council has tried to take the necessary precautions to make the sanctuary and our worship together as safe as possible; but I would still love to see you and reconnect. So...

If you would feel comfortable inviting me to come to your home to share Holy Communion and good conversation, please give me a call at the church... 641.792.3934, or call my cell... 515.321.4882. If no one answers, please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can!

I will gladly wear a mask and gloves to make you feel more comfortable, and take any other precautions that you might feel are necessary. I am on vacation the first week of May; but upon my return, I plan to get out and make those visits as

we get them scheduled.

I look forward to getting back to doing the kind of ministry I love... walking with folks along this journey of faith! So, I invite you to give me a call and let's get together. I want to hear all your pandemic stories. I want to hear how you've weathered the past year. And I want to bring a word of hope for the future. God is so very good!

Living in God's Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes

To those of you who volunteered, and have done so much here at the church over the past year during this unprecedented time of COVID-19 ... Thank you from everyone here at First Lutheran. We appreciate everything you have done to provide services and keeping us all connected with God. We have been blessed to have such an amazing team .

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer,
May 6, 2021
- Mother's Day,
May 9, 2021
- Ascension Day,
May 13, 2021
- Pentecost,
May 23, 2021
- Trinity Sunday,
May 30, 2021
- Memorial Day,
May 31, 2021

Bible Quiz

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer on Pg. 6



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 May.

Canned Veggies,

Baked Beans,

Hamburger Helper

have been requested.

Please take all donations directly to the Salvation army

Mon-Fri 8 am—4 pm

Thank you for being so generous.



15 ways to observe Memorial Day

As the "unofficial" beginning to summer, Memorial Day has lost some of its meaning as a day to give thanks for those men and women of the armed forces — both past and present. We remember those whose sacrifices served the cause of peace and pray for those who are today working in harm's way.

Here are 15 ideas you may be interested in using as you observe this national holiday.

Lift up all veterans and their families in your prayers.

Remember those in your community who have lost loved ones as a result of war. Visit a widow/ widower or child of someone who has died while in the service.

Pay a visit to a nursing home where many World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans are now living. Take the time to sit and talk and listen.

Ask for a list of military personnel from your congregation who are on active duty and include them on your prayer list.

Participate in the "National Moment of Remembrance" at 3 p.m. — "to pause for one minute to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to provide freedom for all" (White House Memorandum May 2, 2000).

Lay a wreath at your local or congregational cemetery in memory of veterans of all wars.

Assemble military care packages sent to U.S. troops serving around the world. Items you may want to include are: tooth paste and brushes, lip balm, deodorant, gum and baby wipes.

Continued on Pg. 4



Zinga News! Where is Dodoma?

Last month, Tanzania's new president Samia Suhulu Hassan had just taken office following the death of John Magufuli. While Magufuli had claimed that Tanzania was Covid-free, Mama Samia wasted no time appointing a taskforce to deal with the pandemic. She also reversed Magufuli's censorship of some press outlets. For more on Tanzania's new president, check this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09dsqfl>

The recognition that Covid-19 is a reality to deal with makes the work of the medical community easier, in the sense that there is no need to hide the diagnosis under some innocuous name. And at Zinga, children are still being seen. In a recent update, we learned of a severely malnourished baby who had been fed nothing but rice or corn porridge since being weaned. The little girl was anemic, suffered from infections and diarrhea, and was running a fever. The prescription: antibiotics, vitamins with iron, and nutritious food, including resuming breastfeeding. Three months later, she is healthy and at a normal weight.

During this challenging time, our Tanzania mission needs our prayers and other support more than ever. This year as last, there are no medical teams or other volunteers coming to Zinga, since the pandemic still makes travel risky. But Dr. Denny and Paula Lofstrom plan on welcoming teams back in 2022. In fact, a number of teams have already signed on for next summer. We pray it will be safe to travel by then.

A new update is published on <https://www.ihptz.org> toward the end of each month. To read the latest from Zinga, go to the website and click on the "IHP Monthly Update" tab.

Newton Village Volunteers Needed!

My name is Cheryl Haldeman, I am Volunteer Coordinator for Newton Village. We are looking for volunteers to help check visitors in to see their loved ones. That would be Health Care Center and Assisted Living doors. Plus we will be looking for help with our activities in the afternoon and evenings. What you will be doing is helping out with Bingo, Manicures, Crafts and possibly go on a bus trip when we have them.

Cheryl Haldeman
Volunteer Coordinator
Newton Village
110 N. 5th Ave W.
Newton, Iowa 50208



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 May 26th. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

Gary Johnson 05/05
 Heidi Sumpter 05/05
 Gloria Grant 05/07
 Isaac Friedman 05/08
 Darrell Boettcher 05/11
 Lane Rose 05/12
 Janice Olson 05/14
 Eric Jordan 05/18
 Alice Klopping 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
 Andrew Weiland 05/31



15 ways to observe Memorial Day (Continued from pg. 2)

Visit memorials in your community. Many cities, towns and villages have erected monuments for those citizens who served in the armed forces.

Fly the POW/MIA flag.

Make a donation for disabled veterans.

Visit patients at your local veterans hospital.

Walk through the section for soldiers at your local cemetery and decorate the graves that have no flowers with a simple carnation or rose.

Volunteer at a USO in your community.

Write a thank-you note to an ELCA federal chaplain.

Attend a Memorial Day prayer service.

—adapted from Living Lutheran

Thomas Hodnett

Thomas is a graduate of the class of 2021. He has been involved with Marching Band and Concert Band, as well as a member of the High School Bowling and Tennis Teams. His future plans are to be an electrician.

Congratulations Thomas!

From everyone here at First Lutheran. It has been a pleasure for everyone here at First to have gotten to watch you grow into such an AMAZING young man.



The tentative date to replace the roof is the middle of May if everything goes as planned.

Next Meeting
Wednesday
May 5th



May 2021, LSI Bulletin/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 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 2020, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to more than 1,097 families 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 Debo-

rah.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).

Wrapping Care Around Iowa Children

Martha and Marti first became foster parents in September of 2018, after their biological children expressed that they wanted to provide foster care as a family. They decided to become licensed through LSI Foster Care and Adoption and soon after, they welcomed a sibling group of three into their home.

"Our kids really wanted to look into foster care as a way to be able to help others as a family," Martha says.

"Everybody had to sacrifice and pour in, and everybody was needed and brought something to the table."

The siblings stayed with the family for almost two years,

until the opportunity came for them to find a forever home through adoption. Over the years, the siblings had become bonded to Martha and Marti, as well as their extended family and friends. The siblings are currently in the process of officially being adopted by a family close to Martha and Marti, so they can continue to stay connected to the important relationships they built in foster care.

The family has found a passion they can all share, and it's making a difference in the lives of Iowa children.

"We always explain fostering as 'good' and 'hard.' You never want to take one away from the other, because it's both. It's the hardest thing we've ever done, but it's the best thing we've done," Martha says. "We've had the privilege of having the kids in our home and you have the responsibility and the privilege to take care of them in their time of need."



Still in Need of Church Volunteers

We invite you to volunteer for one of the many positions needing to be filled here at church.

We have started a Meal Train for the Jordan family as they are going through so much at this time. As a church we have decided we would love to help them in any way we can, and this is one small way we can do that. We would like to bless them with 2 meals a week. We would provide a meal for 4 people on Tuesdays and Fridays. If this is something you feel God has laid on you heart to help with, please contact Connie Lucas at (641) 521-0172 or you can contact me here in the office at (641)792-3934.

We are still having a sweets train for Art Greve. If you made some extra sweets or find yourself with some extra, we would love for you to volunteer to take some over and drop them off. It really lifts his spirits and helps remind him that his church family loves and misses him.

First Lutheran is still in need of 1 person to volunteer to help count the contributions on Monday once a month on the 4th Monday of the month.. This is a simple process and you will be trained on how to do it. It only takes a few minutes and would be helping the church get back on track.

Also in need of volunteers to sing the Hymn of the Day from the balcony. If you would be interested please let Jane Johnson or myself know when you would be available to do so.

We are in need of 3-4 people who would volunteer to sit in the balcony and Facebook live the Sunday services. This is very easily done and you will be trained on how to do it.

By pitching in and helping the church get back on track after being closed for a year would be greatly appreciated. Now that we have our doors back open lets not look back. Let's move forward and not just come to church , but be the church.

Keep moving!

As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: "Congratulations!" (in a loud voice) and "Keep moving" (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don't stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!





Thank You

As many of you are already aware, Jayne and I will be moving to Ankeny in mid-June. I have been working with Corinne Coyle as she transitions into the position of Treasurer for the Church.

The past year has been one of the strangest periods of time I can imagine going through. With my duties as Treasurer and the weekly recording of the worship services to be streamed on Facebook, I spent an unusually large amount of time in the Church each week. I truly feel that God guided Pastor Mark, Jane, and me as we worked to develop a service which was meaningful and personable yet online.

It has been a privilege to serve and work with the congregation these past 4 1/2 years. We have had to deal with different challenges during this time, and in my opinion we have come through them with a renewed sense of purpose. I want to thank everyone who has served on the Council the past five years. True leadership is revealed not during the good times but during the tough times. From my perspective Terri, Judy, and Jim have been and continue to be thoughtful leaders while pursuing the mission of First Lutheran by Celebrating God's love, Growing in faith, and Reach out in compassion to others.

I want to thank Pastor Mark and Nicole for their work and dedication to the ministry of First Lutheran Church. I first met Pastor Mark at Wartburg College, so we have known each other for a while. I don't think that we could've found a better person to lead us through this time of transition. He has been a blessing. Nicole's positive attitude and strong work ethic has helped us move forward with both our audiovisual slides, as well as sending birthday cards to folks. She has also added more life and interest to our monthly newsletter.

I will pray for First Lutheran Church and all those who support this ministry. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be of service.

In God's Amazing Grace,
David Goos



Church Council Meeting Review :

The council met on April 9. Bryan provided devotions. Jim called the meeting to order. The minutes were reviewed and approved with one small typo to be corrected; Corinne moved, Bryan seconded. Dave presented the treasurer report. He reminded us that he would not be doing the fall stewardship campaign but told us the materials he has used to do that in the past.

In new business: Jane mentioned that the church should own a recording device for streaming/recording services. Dave has been using his own. There is a tablet in the office that can be tried, or a used iPhone from someone. Jane and Dave will explore some options. If needed, the church may purchase a smart phone. Dave is also looking into a cord that would record the sound directly off the sound system. A plan for recording will be written and congrega-

tion volunteers will be trained. It is EASY! Jane also raised a concern about copyright issues on recording solos. Pastor Mark will check with the Synod. In person worship continues with COVID caution in place. Jane is preparing a musician schedule. Committees, circles, and church groups can return to the church building with the same cautions in place. They should let the office know so it gets put on the calendar. The council reviewed the duty schedule and will cover for members who need to be relieved in the time being. The property committee will be asked if they approve having the landscape beds around the front and west side of the building adopted monthly by members to be tended. Jane will clean them up in April prior to the next property meeting.

In old business: Pastor Mark will attend the Synod Assem-

bly (remotely). Jim will check with Judy Monroe and Allison Bartholmey to make sure they are still willing to attend. Reservations will be made and paid. Pastor's report: Supply ministers are being found for the first two Sundays in May during Pastor Mark's absence. Mark has agreed to help the United Congregational Church of Christ (next door) with prerecorded church services for the time being. They are also looking to call a new minister and have not returned to in house worship. He will also be returning to member visits now that he is fully vaccinated.

Faith Formations will be asked to honor our high school graduate(s). The service committee reported that they have no planned matching events for spring at this time. Bryan will look into the stewardship campaign for the fall.

The May calendar was reviewed. Jane moved, Jim seconded to move the monthly meetings to the 3rd Thursday. Motion passed. Corinne moved, Jim seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Next meeting May 20.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, guide my listening and response to the Word of God today, and always as you did with Philip and the Ethiopian so long ago.

Breath of God, inspire me by your Word. Fire of God, kindle in me a passion for serving others in your name.

As we approach this Memoria Day, bless all of our Military (and their families) past, present, and future. For they put our safety above their own and sacrifice more than we know for our Great Nation.

AMEN





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
In person Worship Service 9:30am	3	4	5 Prop. Meeting 6:30 pm	6	7	8
In person Worship Service 9:30am <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
In person Worship Service 9:30am	17	18	19	20 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22
In person Worship Service 9:30am	24	25 Dorcas 9:00 AM	26 Community Meal 5:30 PM	27	28	29
In person Worship Service 9:30am 2021 NHS Graduation	31 Memorial Day ★					

God reigns
over the nations.



PSALM 47:8. ESV

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

309 East Third Street North
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office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:30 am—12:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours
by appointment

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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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From all of us at First Lutheran