

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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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

You may have already heard that the council has given the go-ahead to resume full services beginning this month! I am so excited! However, that does NOT mean that things are back to “normal”. We will still have safeguards in place.

Please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all who wish to join us for worship.

We ask that you continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizing stations will still be available; and we encourage their use. Holy Communion will be contactless, but some changes will be made as we move back to regular cups and wafers. We discourage the use of hymnals; and bulletins

will NOT be provided. Everything you need to know will be projected on the screens.

We ask that you use your best judgment about attending worship in person. I hope that if you choose to stay home, you will watch us live, or at a time that is convenient for your schedule. We will continue to live-stream worship on Sunday mornings and it will be available on Facebook as soon as possible after the service. Please be patient with us as we work out all the technical issues involved in getting the service to you. It is not an easy task!

This has been a long and difficult year. We thank you for your patience and understanding. I hope you realize that we are continuing these

safeguards even for those who will not be among us in worship. For example: I cannot risk taking ANY virus or virus-related illness when I go to visit my mother. Even though she is fully vaccinated, her immune system is weak and she is susceptible to pneumonia.

How could I forgive myself if I caused her harm? And I know many of you are in the same or similar situation!

Jesus Christ calls us to love our neighbors. We can do that by taking these simple precautions to keep everyone healthy and safe! We truly are in this together!

Living in God's Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes

Special dates

- Flag Day,
June 14, 2021
- Father's Day,
June 20, 2021
- First day of
summer,
June 20, 2021
- June 21-25th
The Church
office will be
closed

Bible Quiz

???

Complete this proverb: "Like snow
in _____ or rain in harvest,
so honor is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn



Answer on Pg. 8

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 June.

**Canned Veggies,
Can Openers,
Canned Soup**

have been requested.

Please take all
donations directly to the Salvation army

Mon-Fri 8 am—4 pm

Thank you for being so generous.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE REGISTRATION FORM

Friday June 14—18 9:00 AM—Noon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____

School Grade in coming year _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Relationship to Child _____

Who will be picking up your child from VBS? _____

Relationship to Child _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Pre-K through 6th grade
(7-12th grade invited to be
junior helpers)

Open to all kids
(not just those
associated with our churches)

Kids will travel in small groups
between activities



Mark your calendars for
June 14-18 from 9-11:30 for our
annual Vacation Bible School!
Our theme this year is

"Knights of North Castle"

It is going to be so much fun
for all ages!

We will again be combining with
United Presbyterian church for
this week of fun.

Bring a friend or two along and
join us on this adventure. VBS is
open to preschool through 6th
grade. Kids just finishing 6th
grade through high school are
greatly appreciated as Junior
Helpers that week!

Adult helpers would be appre-
ciated too! Please let us know if
you can help. Here is a
registration form and will be
available at the office and in the
narthex through June.



Zinga News!

In a recent update from Zinga, Selemani "Sele" Shabani talks about the ongoing work of maintenance, and on the maintenance workers being trained by the Bagamoyo fire department in starting to put out fires in the half hour it will take for the fire trucks to get there. Last year, what started as a grass fire burned down two of the small round guest houses where volunteers stay. Of course, there were no guests in the midst of the Covid pandemic, so no one was hurt, but this training adds another layer of protection.

Dr. Bonaventura "Bon" Mezezele also shares a couple of stories, one about a two-year-old who is being treated for sickle cell anemia. Because the toddler's case was unusual, Dr. Bon consulted with doctors at the Blood Center in Minneapolis, and the child is receiving special treatment and being closely followed.

The other story is about a woman who came back to the hospital just to say "Thank you." After struggling to conceive, consulting with doctors at more than one hospital, she came to the Children's Hospital several months ago. Prenatal vitamins was all her body needed, and she became pregnant with twins! She stopped by with her beautiful babies.

All of this is possible because we and others share of our blessings and keep the hospital and those who work there in our prayers.

Paula and Denny are still in Overland Park, eagerly waiting for the time when it will be safe for them to resume travels to share the story of IHP and the Children's Hospital, the nursing school at Dodoma, and the bright young Tanzanians whose medical education IHP is sponsoring.



A happy mama and her twins!

Needing Church Volunteers

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

*Still in need of 2-3 people to run the slides during worship.

*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.

* We will be needing a few people to attend to the front and west landscape beds, monthly starting in July.

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 and holding full services lets not look back. Let's move forward and not just come to church , but be the church.

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

06/10 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

06/21 Judy Swenson

06/26 Anna Coyle

06/27 Kurt VanDam



Hanging out with Dad

I've always been a "daddy's girl." Growing up, I usually spent Saturdays in the garage with my dad. We'd build something, fix a car part or get into some trouble together.

Though Joseph wasn't Jesus' biological father, he certainly served as a father figure for God's Son. Jesus followed in Joseph's footsteps as a carpenter, but we're told little about his childhood. When Joseph advised Jesus to "measure twice and cut once," did Jesus mention he'd get it right on the first measure? How many craftsman tips did Jesus learn from Joseph? And did Joseph learn a few from Jesus?

Surely young Jesus looked up to Joseph. What did wonder look like in the eyes of the One who invented wonder?

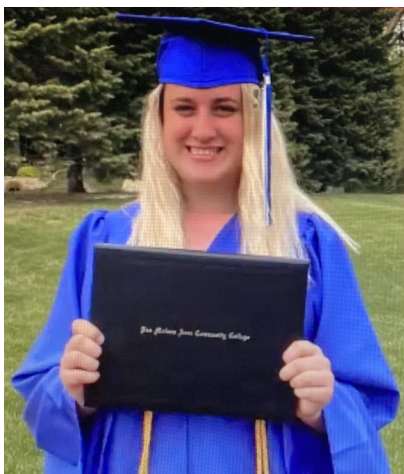
How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his "trade"? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God). What task do you imagine doing together? What does God say to you as you look into his eyes?

—Janna Firestone

Congratulations To Anna & Elizabeth Coyle

Anna Coyle graduated from DMACC with an AA in Liberal Arts. She also worked as a teacher's associate this year at Emerson Hough. Anna has transferred to Grandview University to pursue her degree in K-8 education.

Elizabeth Coyle recently graduated from Grandview University. Lizzy received her BA in Human Services. She was recently promoted to Membership Coordinator at Boys and Girls Club where she also worked as Youth Development Professional for her internship.



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

*Next Meeting
Wednesday
June 2nd*



June 2021, LSI Bulletin/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 Deborah.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

Finding Paradise

Perseverance is a familiar quality for Mon, who after spending decades living as a refugee from an early age was recently able to place roots in Iowa and succeed in building a life for his family.

After living in a Nepali refugee camp for almost 24 years, Mon's family was able to resettle in the U.S. When they arrived in Iowa, they moved directly into a tiny apartment. But the single room was not sufficient for their family – especially once their youngest daughter was born. They stayed in the apartment for four years, but Mon was determined to create a better home for his family.

Mon secured housing for his family through the Habitat for Humanity program, and through LSI Refugee and Immigrant Services, he was able to get on track and save and earn money towards his goal of homeownership. With guidance from staff in LSI's

Match and Save financial program, he was able to open a savings account and develop a monthly savings plan.

Mon and his family moved into their new home last year, and he said LSI and Habitat for Humanity were critical steps in helping him learn about U.S. finances and savings – lessons that will pay off during his journey as a homeowner.

"I felt very sad when I left my country," Mon says. "I felt as if I lost my paradise. But when I got the key and when I entered my house, I felt that I regained my lost paradise. So that was the happiest moment in my life and right now, I, my family, and kids are super happy to live in this new house."



Church Council Meeting Review :

The church council met on May 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Jane led devotions. The minutes were read and approved and Corinne presented the treasurer's report.

In new business: Jane moved and Kay seconded the following plan for church services starting in June: Masking/social distancing will continue, as will collection of offering and communion as has been done now. One small adjustment to communion will happen when the pre filled cups have all been used. Pastor Mark will announce that. We will be going back to the full service with music being sung by the congregation, excepting hymns during communion that will not be sung, but music will be played. All service information will be on the screens, no hymnals used yet at this time. The council will discuss possible fellowship in June. Motion passed.

Council on duty plan was revised to include live streaming

the services. Jane will type the plan. The ushers will continue to light the candles until fall when this can be considered again for youth as there would be several the correct age. The offering counters' plan is being adjusted to include those who need to count on Sundays after services. Those folks will count, place the offerings and deposit slip in a regular bank bag and it will be dropped in the night deposit at the bank. The church secretary will then drive by the bank the following week to retrieve the bag and deposit slip. If counting on Monday, the original plan will be followed.

Our church needs to decide if we will continue with the monthly community meals (held at the Methodist church) by July. Tabled the discussion until June when a possible plan will be discussed.

In old business: Nicole will continue to mail service packets to members who can't attend church and/or do not

have the internet. Jim will help her revise that list. Nicole will put a request in the e-mail/newsletter asking members to adopt the front/west landscape beds for a month starting in July to keep them weeded and looking tended. April, May, and June have already been adopted.

Pastor Mark reported that he will be doing 'in house' services for the UCCC church next door starting May 30. Those will follow our service time. He has also started in person visits again. Judy Monroe and Allison Bartholmey will attend the remote Synod Assembly along with Pastor Mark starting May 21.

Faith Formations report included recognition on the outdoor sign for our two graduates. VBS will be held in collaboration with United Presbyterian church the week of June 14 in the mornings. Allison Bartholmey will be heading the team with Robin Friedman from our church and a team from UP assisting.

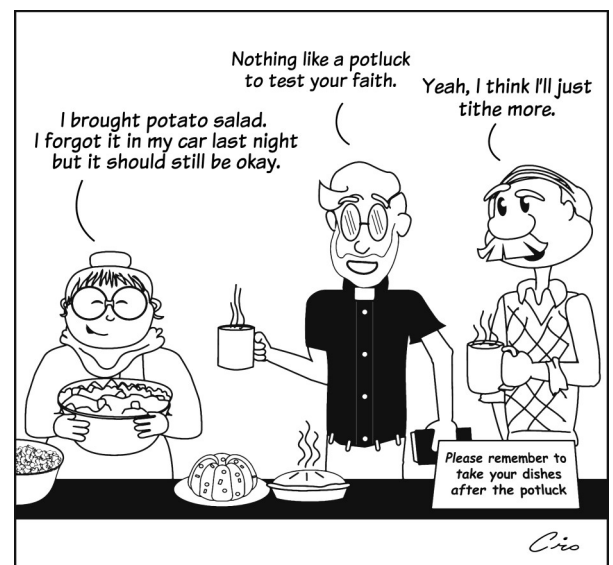
The next meeting will be held on June 17.

Prayer

God, you are the perfect Father of all, the model of unconditional love. Help fathers and all people feel your warm embrace all the days of our lives days.

Your faithfulness is great, O God! Thank you for your steadfast love and new mercies.

"All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 17:24). As summer arrives, I join Creation in recognizing and praising the Giver of all life! Thank you Lord for all that you do. AMEN



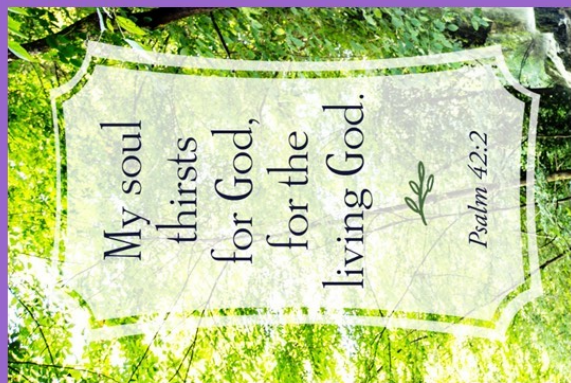


JUNE 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Prop. Meeting 6:30 pm	3	4	5
6 In person Worship Service 9:30am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 In person Worship Service 9:30am	14	15	16	17 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	18	19
20 <i>Happy Father's Day</i> In person Worship Service 9:30am	21	22	23	24 Dorcas 9:00 AM	25	26
27 In person Worship Service 9:30am	28	29	30			

The office will be closed the week of June 21st-25th



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm
Pastor's Office Hours
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HAPPY
Father's
Day