

**FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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1:00—5:00 p.m.
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First Lutheran 2021

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From Pastor Mark Holmes

As the restrictions in Newton and across the state begin to disappear, our church council has made the decision to loosen restrictions as well. Beginning in July, masks will no longer be required of those who have received their vaccination for Covid. We will still have barriers in place to encourage social distancing; and obviously, we want everyone to sanitize or wash your hands frequently. Also, we ask that you be respectful of those around you who may need to mask for health reasons. Slip your mask on or keep your distance to protect the vulnerable among us. First Lutheran Church

is a "No Judgment Zone" and we ask that you take any necessary steps to keep yourself, and others, safe and healthy!

We will also be resuming Coffee Fellowship following worship services each week. If you are comfortable joining us, please come downstairs for delicious goodies and lively conversation. Again, there is no judgment if you are wanting to exercise caution by maintaining distance.

In the midst of these warm summer months, I realize you may be getting away on the weekends; or you're socializing more because pandemic

restrictions have been lifted. But I hope you will keep Sunday morning worship as a priority. I have missed seeing you. I love this place, and the one thing that has made all the difference is YOU! But, more than that, it is good to gather as a church family to give thanks and praise to an awesome God!

Come be a part of the bold future that God has planned for First Lutheran Church. Buckle up! It's going to be quite an adventure! Living in God's Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes



"In our time of need we have been blessed by your prayers and gifts. We appreciate those who spent time supplying us with wonderful meals. Thank you for everyone whom supported us! The Jordan's"

Bible Quiz

???
An unnamed relative of Paul obstructed a conspiracy to kill the apostle. What was this rescuer's relation to Paul?

- A. nephew
- B. niece
- C. brother
- D. sister



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 July.

Mac and Cheese,

Cereal,

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.

Future of Community Meals

Our church has been serving the free community meal at 1st United Methodist Church for many years. We cover the 4th Wednesday of each month in September - May. We thank Marlys Amundsen, Judy Swenson, and Candy Thompson for coordinating this outreach project for many years. Now it's time for the rest of us to step up! The council is committed to continue this service.

There are always folks willing to provide food to keep the costs down, and come help on the nights we serve. We need folks who will agree to plan each month. That involves creating the menu, putting out a list of needed groceries/food (or purchasing at Fareway and having the bill put on the 1st Lutheran account) and knowing how to set it up at the Methodist church.

The council believes the task could fall to 9 different people/families/groups. Team up with your favorite member, and let us know what month you want to do. Marlys provided wonderful recipes and how many they serve. Those are in the tub of supplies in the church kitchen, so it's easy to plan a meal (or you can come up with your own). We need to have a menu plan for each month by mid August to take to a planning meeting with all the churches involved (to make sure we don't serve chili four weeks in a row in January?). Some of us who have done this meal will assist you in understanding how it is served (it will be going back to in house dining in September) and how to find items and use the 1st Methodist kitchen. Sometimes prep has also been done in our church kitchen and carted over if that is better for you.

Our church should also have one contact person for the coordinator, Mel Wilson at 1st Methodist, to call. That person would simply know who is doing each month and what they plan to serve in case there are questions.

In God's hands

In Keep a Quiet Heart, Christian missionary Elisabeth Elliot ponders the faith implications of fretting about days to come. "Today is mine; tomorrow is none of my business," she writes. "If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now."

And what's the alternative? Instead of dwelling on times to come, which we can't change anyway, Elliot recommends: "Leave it all in the hands that were wounded for you."



Zinga News!

Back in 2017, Paula and Denny Lofstrom, our Tanzania medical missionaries, shared the story of little Jafari, 3-1/2 years old. Jafari suffers from athetoid quadriplegia, a chronic condition caused by hyperbilirubinemia, too much bilirubin in the blood. The seizures caused by the excess of bilirubin resulted in brain damage. While symptoms vary, in Jafari's case it means that though he is of normal intelligence, he is non-verbal, and involuntary muscle movements mean he is unable to stand and walk unassisted.

When he first came to the Children's Hospital, he was given his own walker, a gift from Canadian donors. Imagine being a toddler with his disabilities, then suddenly being able to walk! But that was not all: Pediatric physical therapist Dawn Wakefield and special education teacher Mary Pace designed assistive devices that enabled Jafari to hold a spoon or a crayon. Now he could feed himself, and even have fun drawing. And being able to hold a crayon or pencil meant that this non-verbal child would someday be able to communicate in writing.

In the May Zinga Update, Dr. Jesse Kitundu included a photo of Jafari, who continues to come to the Children's Hospital for treatment. He no longer has convulsions. The hospital is arranging for him to get a national health insurance card. And Mary Pace, from her home in Missouri, continues to work with Jafari and coach his parents via WhatsApp. She looks forward to being able to work with them in person when travel to Tanzania is safe again.



**Jafari's irresistible smile
lights up the room**

For more of what's happening at Zinga, go to <https://www.ihptz.org> !
We hope to see Dr. Denny and Paula Lofstrom in person again in October! Meanwhile , we keep them and the work at Zinga in our prayers.

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 needing a few people to attend to the front and west landscape beds, monthly starting in July. With the return to "normal" services we are also encouraging our congregation to volunteer to sign up to host fellowship. Also if you are interested in being a Lector please let me know.

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.

Steve Hodnett 07/04
 Carson Sumpter 07/04
 Leo Friedman 07/06
 Talia Friedman 07/08
 Victoria Jordan 07/08
 Lonnie Portner 07/08
 Barb Anderson 07/13
 Elizabeth Ketcham 07/13
 Allison Bartholmey 07/18
 Anna VanDam 07/22
 Todd Lucas 07/27
 Erik Vokes 07/28
 Jeremy Sumpter 07/31



The flavor of the gospel

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor?” (Matthew 5:13, NLT). These words from Jesus might seem strange to us — can salt lose its flavor? But in New Testament times, most of the salt used as seasoning, preservative, medicinal aid and more came from the Dead Sea, where impurities often compromised its usefulness, especially its flavor.

Jesus urges his disciples — including us — to not let the flavor of the gospel be suppressed in our lives. What might do this? Teachings that treat patriotism, prosperity or any other value as equal to Jesus; the tendency to elevate one nation, church denomination, theological understanding or religious tradition above all others; such intense focus on the laws of ancient Israel that we neglect the superseding grace of God. But neither should we force the gospel on people, like overpowering their food by dumping in too much salt at once.

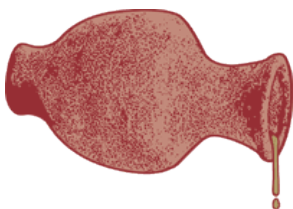
As followers of Jesus, we’re the salt of the earth. Let us use his good news to gently season others’ lives with service and love.

Saved from sinking

For Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, fame and gold medals weren’t enough to shore up a drowning self-esteem. The U.S. swimmer, who faced legal trouble and ended up in rehab, contemplated suicide during the prime of his sports career. “I thought the world would just be better off without me,” Phelps told ESPN.

Then a friend, NFL star Ray Lewis, sent Phelps a copy of Rick Warren’s bestseller *The Purpose Driven Life*. The book made such an impact on Phelps that he read excerpts aloud to fellow rehab-clinic patients, who dubbed him Preacher Mike. “It’s turned me into believing there is a power greater than myself, and there is a purpose for me on this planet,” Phelps says. “It helped me when I was in a place where I needed the most help.” The swimmer’s message to Lewis? By extending a hand and sharing the gospel’s message of hope, “You saved my life.”

Christian symbol



OIL—In the Old Testament, oil symbolized consecration to God. The temple altar and king’s heads were anointed with oil to set them apart as holy. In the New Testament, oil often represented the Holy Spirit. Jesus and his followers were anointed for their ministries (see Luke 4:18 and Acts 10:38).



July 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! Thanks to you, we are able to provide education to parents of young children, empower Iowans with disabilities, and offer critical mental health care to community members of all ages. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project.

On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it's raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your service! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a "God's work. Our hands." project with LSI, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy

and church relations, at Deborah.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.

Hali's New Life

Hali grew up in a home surrounded by addiction. Her own struggle with substance use and trauma continued for more than 20 years but when she learned she was pregnant with her son, Apollo, she knew she needed a change. After giving birth, Hali entered treatment and when she was ready to return home, LSI Early Childhood Services were there to provide support and walk alongside her.

Her LSI worker, Gretchen, provided parenting education and resources, all while empowering Hali and making sure Apollo had a healthy home. Gretchen helped Hali

keep track of Apollo's growth to ensure he hit all his important developmental milestones.

More than a year later, Hali is thriving. She is now in college and is also a sponsor to other women who are on the same path to recovery. At home, Hali is busy keeping up with Apollo as he is learning to walk, and she is excited to see him continue to grow.

"Gretchen has given me a lot of hope. She's always had my back," Hali says. "She's my go-to person for any resource and it's nice to have her in my corner."



Church Council Meeting Review :

The church council met on June 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Jim conducted devotions and called the meeting to order. The May minutes were read and approved. Corinne presented a written treasurer's report and discussed highlights for the group.

In new business, Jane moved and Kay seconded that changes to worship begin in July. These include: masks will now be optional, but social distancing continues; hymnals can now be used, and fellowship will resume. Kay will put together a team to do the fellowship on July 4. The council on duty schedule was reviewed and adjusted. Kay is suggesting that we hold off another year on the corn boil due to the packed crowd we generally get on that night.

CUCC and 1st Presbyterian are ready to notify their congregations of the discussions our task force has been conducting. A letter created by 1st Presbyterian was reviewed,

but it was decided it did not reflect our church status. Pastor Mark will prepare a letter for our congregation and the council will review/edit it this weekend, hopefully ready to be sent soon. In old business Jim reported that Judy Monroe, Allison Bartholmey and Pastor Mark all attended the Synod meeting on May 21. Jim reviewed the list of members that receive the church services by mail. It is now less than 12. Jim will also chat with Duane Quanbeck about possibly finding a device that might do a better job of recording the services.

There is still a need for folks to attend the front and west landscaping beds starting in July. August has been spoken for.

The council is committed to continue the 4th Wednesday community meal at the Methodist church in the fall. Jane will prepare a plan to present to the congregation in an effort to recruit help, and con-

tact the Methodist church for further information.

Pastor Mark reported that he had conducted a brief funeral service and would be doing a graveside service for another soon. The Bishop is reporting that fill-in ministers are getting very hard to find.

The Faith Formations committee reported that VBS is being held this week in collaboration with United Presbyterian with about 24 children attending. The property committee report was included, showing that the roof is being installed and the two flat roofs that sustained damage are being negotiated with the insurance company.

The July meeting will be moved to the 22nd with Kay providing devotions.

Meeting adjourned.

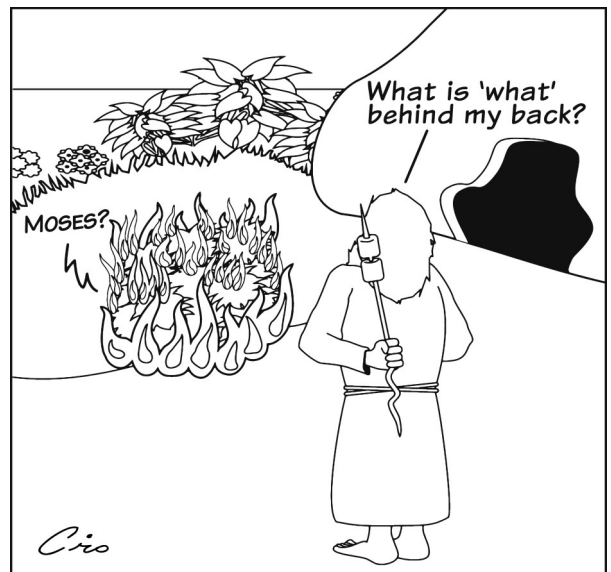


Prayer

Your grace is sufficient for me, dear Lord. When I feel weak, may your strength dwell in me. Thank you, Spirit, for guiding me here, nourishing my soul and strengthening me for the things to come. God, thank you for being right nearby whenever I call on you, I place my trust in you. . As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life.

Let's praise him all of our days.

In your name AMEN





★ ★ ★ JULY

First Lutheran 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Newton 4th of July parade</i>
4 <i>Happy 4th of July</i> In person Worship Service 9:30am	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 In person Worship Service 9:30am	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 In person Worship Service 9:30am	19	20	21	22 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	23	24
25 In person Worship Service 9:30am	26	27	28	29 <i>Dorcas 9:00 AM</i>	30	31

The office will be closed Monday July 5th in observance of Independence Day



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Hours
Monday—Friday
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**YOU WILL BE
SECURE, BECAUSE
THERE IS HOPE.**

JOB 11:18, NIV

