

**FIRST  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

Pastor Mark Holmes

[pastor@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@newtonfirstlutheran.org)

515-321-4882

President

Jim Lammey

[JimLammey78@gmail.com](mailto:JimLammey78@gmail.com)

641-792-0802

Secretary

Jane Johnson

[janebockwoldtjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:janebockwoldtjohnson@gmail.com)

(641) 792-0042

Co-Treasurers

David Goos

[goos2104@iowatelecom.net](mailto:goos2104@iowatelecom.net)

641-792-8818

Corinne Coyle

[corinnecoyle9@gmail.com](mailto:corinnecoyle9@gmail.com)

515-669-2983

Administrative Assistant

Nicole Vitales

[office@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@newtonfirstlutheran.org)

641-792-3934

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**

As we look forward to officially welcoming folks back and sharing a feast together on August 1st at the Corn Boil, I am reminded of how far we have come during these times of uncertainty.

The past 15 months have pushed us to think outside the box as we discovered new ways to bring “church” to family and friends of First Lutheran. Live-streaming, Website and FaceBook posts, even sending out hard copies of scripture and sermons. Most of these continue even today. Thank you for being patient with us in the midst of our successes and our failures!

Unfortunately, I am also reminded of the losses we have suffered. I have done funerals for three of our church family during the pandemic, but I have also lost three personal friends to Covid. My wife lost both of her parents in the span of a year due to

cancer and dementia. It is a reminder to me of the fragility of life and how we must continue to live in the moment, never knowing if we'll have tomorrow to say what needs to be said, or doing what needs to be done.

So, here's the deal. Let me say this right now. I love our work together in this place; and you need to know that. Some days are hard; some a little easier. But we are doing important work... salvation work. And because it is so important, more people desperately need to hear this Good News of a Great God!

My friends, don't wait until tomorrow to share the story. Don't wait until tomorrow to spread the invitation: “Come and See!” The time is NOW before it's too late! Statistics show that most communities in lo-

wa are about 50% unchurched; and the number is growing every year. In other words, there is no shortage of people with whom we can share the Good News!

Invite your friends and neighbors! Offer to bring them if they are hesitant to come. Getting folks in the front door is the first step, but it is an important step! Once we get them in the front door, this amazing family called First Lutheran will greet them and welcome them and make them feel at home.

That's all it takes. This isn't rocket science. So, just do it. Do it TODAY! Oh, and by the way, thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this family and join you in this great adventure to which God has called us!

*Living in God's Amazing  
Grace!*

*Pastor Mark Holmes*

If you or a loved one is  
in need of prayer  
please  
contact the church of-  
fice or Kay Hesse at  
(641)521-8370.

*I have told you these  
things, so that in me  
you may have peace. In  
this world, you will  
have trouble. But take  
heart! I have overcome  
the world (John 16:33).*

### **Bible Quiz**

What was the name of the  
queen who refused to appear  
before the king of Persia and his  
guests and, as a result, was de-  
posed?

- A. Esther
- B. Jael
- C. Vashti
- D. Milcah



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 August.

**Spaghetti Oh's,**  
**Ravioli,**  
**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**

Thank you to those of you that have already signed up. There are 3 spaces left. December 22nd, February 23rd, & March 23rd.

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 will have one contact person as the coordinator Jane Johnson has so graciously accepted that position,

### **Reminder**

We are still needing people to join our Treat Train for a long time member and shut-in that would like to see a friendly face now and then . If you are interested in just dropping off some goodies for him please let me know.

He is also wondering if there are any men in the church that would be interested in getting together for a cup of coffee or lunch now and then.



## Zinga News!

In any normal year, Zinga would now be abuzz with visiting teams and medical students, but as we know, even though things are loosening up a bit in the US, this is not much like a normal year. In Tanzania, that is even more true than here. While we in Iowa have ready access to free Covid vaccines, in Tanzania, only 1 percent of the population has been vaccinated. It did not help that former president Magufuli was a Covid denier, but fortunately, the current president Samia Hassan is doing her best to get people vaccinated. The problem now, as in most of Africa, is access to vaccine. Meanwhile, we await the day when it will be safe to return to Zinga. Teams are signed up for next year; let us pray they will be able to go.

In the meantime, work goes on at Zinga. The hospital is providing free cervical cancer screenings. The government chose the hospital at Zinga for this ongoing project because of its excellent laboratory and trained staff.

You may recall that some months ago, a grass fire started by neighbors got out of control and burned onto the hospital grounds. One of the cement block roundhouses where volunteers stay was destroyed in the fire. Fortunately, this was last year, so the house was empty. Sele and his team are using the rubble from the broken blocks to improve the roads before the rainy season and will be rebuilding the house with new cement blocks made onsite. Recycling is alive and well at Zinga!



Meanwhile, back in Overland Park, both Paula and Denny Lofstrom are eager to return to Zinga. Let us pray that it will soon be safe for all to visit there.



## Welcome Back Corn Boil

We will be having our annual Corn Boil for the First Lutheran Congregation to celebrate us being able to meet in person after the past 15 months of craziness.. We are still not advertising to the public due to the pandemic and COVID recommendations from the Bishop and the CDC.

The Corn Boil will be immediately following worship service at 10:30 A.M. on August 1st. Feel free to bring a dessert if you would like to.

**We are looking forward to fun and fellowship with you.**

Terri Hayden 08/02  
 Blake Geilenfeldt 08/07  
 Deborah Rose 08/07  
 Thomas Hodnett 08/09  
 Alexander Breuer 08/10  
 Rachel Monroe 08/11  
 Duane Quanbeck 08/17  
 Arlene Dobesh 08/19  
 Carey Jordan 08/19  
 Elizabeth McVey 08/21  
 Steven Putz 08/27  
 Marilyn Gelinas 08/28  
 Candy Thompson 08/28  
 Elizabeth Coyle 08/29  
 Nicole Vitales 08/29  
 Marcelina Marvelli 08/30



## The power of listening

“The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen,” says Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, author and integrative medicine professor. “Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention.”

Twice in Mark 4, while teaching, Jesus urges, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen” (verses 9 & 23, NRSV). One way we show what Jesus means to us is by truly listening to his word — not just hearing sounds but being attentive and intentional. Likewise, one way we love and serve others is by respectfully listening to them: not assuming we know what they feel or mean or will say; not planning what to say even as they’re still speaking, but listening deeply to learn about them and their experience.

We often think living our faith calls for great accomplishments or worldwide reach. But Remen says, “A loving silence often has ... power to heal and to connect.” Don’t underestimate something as



August 22nd  
will be our annual backpack blessing!!

## Forecast: 100% goodness

While Stan Purdum pastored an Ohio church in 1988, the region suffered a major drought. Congregants who were farmers saw their fields — and livelihoods — dry up and die. “I was impressed that they didn’t stop attending church and kept giving offerings,” he says. “A cynic might respond, ‘Well, the farmers don’t want to offend God and cause him to withhold more rain.’ But I concluded, ‘Look at their remarkable faith.’”

During the drought, Purdum gave a sermon about Elijah challenging the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40). “Like Elijah, we need to hold on to our belief in God’s goodness,” he preached. “God will again send rain on our land. We will continue to pray for it. Perhaps it’s too late for this year’s crop, and we need to care for the people affected. But we do so while maintaining our faith in God’s providence.”

## Christian symbol



**LION**—A lion represents watchfulness and alertness. It also symbolizes Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:4-5). A winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark, whose gospel focuses on Jesus’ royalty and resurrection.





## August 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! This time of year can be exciting and stressful for many of us, but adjusting back into a classroom routine can be especially difficult for kids and teens with emotional or behavioral disorders. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental and behavioral health services for children and families across the state. Our therapists provide virtual and in-person therapy sessions with children, while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS) team collaborates with families in their home or in a community setting to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services,

please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

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](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### Helping Families Adjust to a New Normal

*Uriyah felt overwhelmed by anxiety.*

*During the pandemic, it was hard for him to even leave his room, talk to his family, and attend school. When classes moved online, he felt comfortable completing his homework and attending classes virtually. But when it was time to return to school for in-person classes, he would not attend. His mom, Holly, wanted him to be able to finish the school year virtually, but she needed help*

*navigating the transition with his school.*

*That's when she learned about LSI's STEP IN community program. Through the service, LSI social workers are there to build on a family's strengths and ensure children and parents have what they need to thrive and create a brighter future. Children and teens in the program work with their LSI team to develop coping skills, conflict resolution, and healthy communication. The LSI team helped Uriyah feel more comfortable engaging with his family, and Holly had the support she needed to work with the school, advocate for her child, and ensure Uriyah could finish the school year online.*

*Now, Uriyah has felt a weight lifted off his shoulders, and he successfully graduated out of LSI programming. The last year has created unprecedented stress and anxiety for many children and teens, but Uriyah now feels more comfortable and confident moving forward.*



## Church Council Meeting Review :

The church council met on July 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Kay conducted devotions and Jim called the meeting to order. The June minutes were read and approved. Council reviewed a letter from Brittany McNeer suggesting that additional partnering with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Newton should be pursued.

**In new business,** Report of the Joint Sub-Committee of the Call Committee: Aaron Bartholmey reported on his recent meeting with representatives of United Church of Christ and First Presbyterian. Erica Uthe of the Synod office was in attendance at that meeting. The Lutheran Church has a more formal process than the other denominations for forming partnerships, so the attendees agreed to utilize the Lutheran framework, with no pre-determined goal or outcome in mind. It would start with 30 days of prayer as the first step of a seven step process, with four to six weeks between each step.

Pastor Holmes stated that the Bishop's office is taking a more active role in trying to locate a permanently called pastor for First Lutheran, including contacting any pastors seeking a call and seeing if a partnership with other congregations could be fruitful. The sub-committee is scheduled to meet again in mid-August.

Coyle moved that the Council give its approval to continue with the exploration process with United Church of Christ and First Presbyterian, with Aaron Bartholmey serving as the current representative. Lammey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Changes to Worship:** The Council agreed that no additional changes to the Covid-19 protocols were warranted at this time, especially with the continued spread of variants. Hesse stated that blending in more contemporary worship elements could be good. This would be discussed in more detail in the future.

**Landscaping Beds** in Front of Church: Property Committee did a huge clean-out job last week. The rest of the summer is sufficiently covered thanks to that large amount of work.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Holmes again reported on the multi-pronged approach the Bishop's office is taking with finding a permanently called pastor for First Lutheran. He stated that he performed three funerals this past month. He continues to preach each week at United Church of Christ and distributes communion there the first Sunday of each month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Coyle reviewed the financial statements with the Council. She is figuring out the accounting system and will try to help educate the Council about details of the financial aspects of First Lutheran. She provided a true net income figure for the Church by removing the storm damage insurance figures that obscure the picture. The Church is continuing to have a positive net income for the year to date.



### Prayer

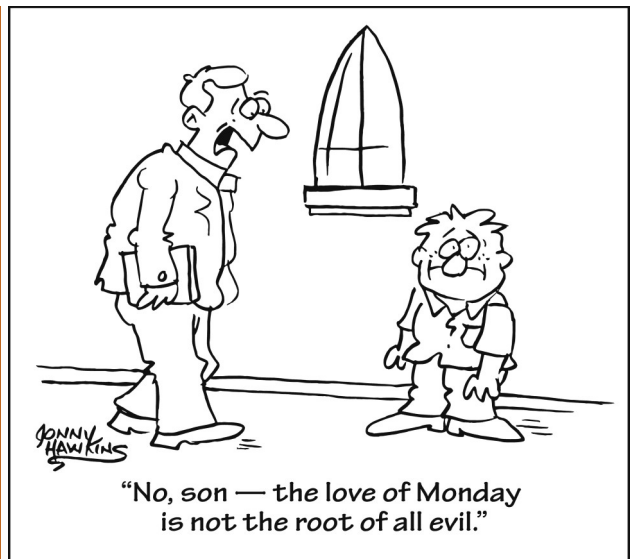
**Lord God, equip each of us for the work of ministry, and build us up as the body of Christ.**

**O Bread of Life, feed me all of my days.**

**Nourish my soul with your grace so I may share your love with the world. I bring a full spectrum of feelings with me today and every day. You know it all. Help me hear what you need me to hear.**

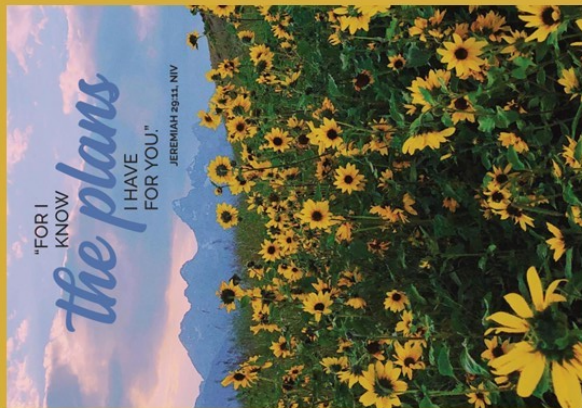
**Holy Spirit, weave a fabric of justice to cover the world, using us as threads of your love and mercy.**

**AMEN**





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



### First Evangelical Lutheran Church

309 East Third Street North  
Newton, Iowa  
50208

[office@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@newtonfirstlutheran.org)

Office Hours  
Monday—Friday  
8:30 am—12:30 pm  
Pastor's Office Hours  
by appointment



309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
50208

FIRST  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Watch Past and Live  
services !**

[newtonfirstlutheran.org](http://newtonfirstlutheran.org)  
&  
(on Facebook at)  
First Lutheran Church-  
Newton

Phone: 641-792-3934

E-mail:

[firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org)

