

FIRST  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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Tuesday & Thursday  
1:00—5:00 p.m.  
or by appointment



# SEPTEMBER 2021

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## *From Pastor Mark Holmes*

When I was in High School, I worked the 'grave-yard shift' on the week-ends at the local truck stop. In other words, I would get home about 6:00 on Sunday morning after working all night. After a few precious hours of sleep, my dad would wander into my room and holler, "Time for church!" And if I didn't hop out of bed with joy in my heart, he would start pulling the mattress off my bed with me still on it! At that point, there was no doubt in my mind. I would be going to church!

Should I sleep in or go to worship? For my parents, it was a no-brainer! After all, when someone like God is handing you these incredible gifts, it would be silly to say 'NO', right?

It might have never occurred to you, but each of us have that same choice on Christmas morning. We can

choose to hop out of bed, race down the stairs, and open the incredible gifts we have been given; OR we can choose to stay in bed and ignore the gifts! I bet you've never thought of it that way; but we do have a choice!

How many of you would ever make that kind of choice? Yeah, probably not many of us! After all, who would turn their back on the incredible gifts that are given? And yet, isn't that what we do when we sleep in on Sunday morning? Isn't that what we do when the 'busy-ness of this life' takes priority over joining our brothers and sisters in giving thanks and praise to an awesome God?

The gifts of God have no equal! And they are given to each and every one of us with no strings attached. So, come on! Don't miss out! If you think you can find the same kind of life-giving

energy and vitality that God gives somewhere else, forget about it! Give it up! You're just fooling yourself! There's only one place that kind of gift can be found. And that is at the foot of the Master! So, pull yourself out of bed and join us on Sunday mornings. Don't miss the opportunity to claim these incredible gifts!

*Living in God's Amazing  
Grace!*

*Pastor Mark Holmes*



PROPERTY  
*Committee*

*Next Meeting  
Wednesday  
September 1st  
6:30 PM.*

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** ???

How many times in the Old Tes-  
tament do people cross a body  
of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



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  
September.

**Canned Veggie,**

**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.

## **Laboring for the Lord**

For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.”

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. “Whatever your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Je-  
sus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship inter-  
lock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work be-  
comes worship when you dedicate it to  
God and perform it with an awareness of  
his presence.”

# **PRAISE IN THE PARK**

**Saturday, September 4, 2021**

**12 NOON**

At

**WOODLAND PARK**

SOUTH SHELTER, NEWTON

BRING CHAIRS

INCLEMENT WEATHER LOCATION: DISCOVER HOPE, NEWTON

**HYMN SING AT NOON**

and

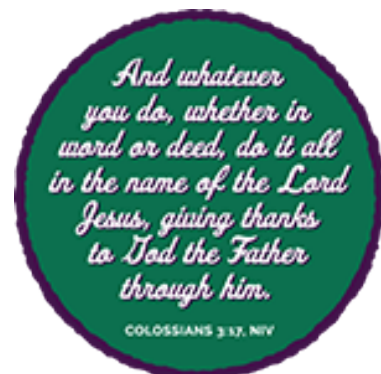
**WORSHIP GROUPS:**

BEN SANDER

HIGHER POWER QUARTET

NEW CREATION CHURCH

THE ZURCHERS





## Zinga News!

In the July Zinga Update, Paula talks about Selemani “Sele” Shabani, who visited our church with Paula and Denny a few years back. Sele has been working for IHP since Paula and Denny’s first project at Iambi, when First Lutheran also got involved.

In Paula’s words:

As many of you know, Sele is another son for Denny and me. We “adopted in love” this young man when we were first beginning the attempt to rescue Iambi Hospital back in 2002. Yup, it’s been that long.

Denny was working as a doctor there, I as a nurse...

Sele had been fixing motorcycles up at Haydom Lutheran Hospital when he heard about Iambi... Sele was hired as a “casual worker” and because he worked so well, [we] continued to hire him day after day. He became one of our first permanent employees.

One day Denny was disappointed to realize his radio no longer worked. He fiddled and fiddled with it and finally threw it away. Sele picked it up out of the trash and asked, “Can I have this?” Yes, but it doesn’t work. The next day Sele gave Denny a list of what it would take to fix it and where to buy the parts. Needless to say, the radio was working again in short order. A small incident, leading to more and more realizations that Sele could fix almost ANYTHING!

Sele hadn’t graduated from Secondary school but managed to get tutored to essentially a GED. Then he went for electrical education and became a certified electrical contractor. Eventually, IHP assisted him to go to college and become a building contractor. All of this education was at the same time he continued to serve IHP, at Iambi, and later at Nyakato, and now at Zinga. When he took his Contractor's Board Certification, he got the highest score in the country. Of course.

Mary Ellen, Denny, and I knew that Sele could make a LOT more money as a contractor owning his own business, much more than IHP could ever afford to pay him, so we made a deal, he could work outside of the hospital, and we helped him register his own company. His company had to comply with all the Tanzanian tax laws and regulations, but he had to serve IHP first. He could do other things after hours or when he was not needed “on site.” Sele has been with IHP for almost 20 years now, and the agreement has endured. IHP could not function without him. He also went to Arusha for a course in how to fix and maintain all of the hospital laboratory and technical equipment. How many times a week do we hear “Get Sele!” when something isn’t working?

For the parts of this story too long to print here and more, go to [ihptz.org](http://ihptz.org), click on IHP Monthly Update, and select July 2021. And always, keep our Tanzania mission in your prayers.

Connie Lucas 09/02  
 Mary Obersteller 09/02  
 Garrett Frehse 09/05  
 Bryce Grabe 09/08  
 Patty Balk 09/09  
 Morgan Frehse 09/09  
 Belinda Birkenholtz 09/12  
 Jim Lammey 09/15  
 Josh Cantu 09/18  
 Jack Kramer 09/21



## Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways,  
 sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.  
 And some take years to fully unfold  
 the harvest of love and blessings they hold.  
 Answers to prayers come in various forms,  
 sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms.  
 Some blossom early, and some blossom late,  
 but each one will flower — have faith and wait!  
 —Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

## Special dates

Labor Day,  
 September 6, 2021  
 Patriot Day,  
 September 11, 2021  
 National Grandparents  
 Day,  
 September 12, 2021  
 Hispanic Heritage Month,  
 Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2021  
 First day of autumn,  
 September 22, 2021

## "God's work. Our hands." Sunday



## Christian symbol



**ARK OF THE COVENANT**—For the Israelites, the Ark of the Covenant was at the center of worship. It contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. In the Old Testament, the ark was a visible representation of God's throne, or presence, on earth, where he communed with Moses and the high priests. It also represents our earthly bodies, where the Holy Spirit dwells.





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

### Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive in their communities. Through our innovative Host Homes program, caregivers can also become mentors to individuals with disabilities, welcoming them into their private family home where they can receive more one-on-one care and encouragement.

It has been a challenging year for parents of children with disabilities, and there are lots of Iowa families who deserve support right now. You can help by joining the LSI team as a short-term respite care

provider for Iowa kids. Visit [LSIowa.org/respite](http://LSIowa.org/respite) to learn more, and if you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, 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://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### Where are They Now: Amanda and Mavis

*Amanda has lived with her Host Homes mentor, Mavis, for three years and continues to gain more independence through the program. When Amanda first entered Host Homes, she required multiple psychiatric hospital visits throughout the year. She had been living in a busy home with roommates, and she needed a new environment to thrive.*

*When she moved in with Mavis, the two worked together to build important life skills for Amanda and find ways for her to cultivate her creative mind. Amanda loves listening to Elvis music, sewing, and ceramics, so Mavis helped Amanda enroll in art classes. When she was no longer able to attend during the pandemic, Mavis ensured she had space at home to continue creating art. Amanda recently finished a major ceramics project: a replica of Elvis she has been working on for three years.*

*Amanda continues to work on her goals, including personal hygiene, exercise, medication management, and cooking. Throughout the pandemic, Mavis and Amanda spent lots of time in the kitchen, and Amanda is now able to cook independently. She loves trying new dishes, and her favorite foods are pasta recipes. And instead of several emergency calls and hospital visits each year, Amanda has not needed mental health hospitalization in more than a year and a half.*

*"I think I'm doing really well, I've been doing lots of things," Amanda says. "I want to do even more amazing things too. I really like it here."*



## Church Council Meeting Review :

The church council met on August 19. Devotions were led by Jane, minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report in the packet was reviewed in Corinne's absence.

In new business, Jim reported that he had discussed with a member the possibility of sharing a minister with Holy Trinity. The member was not aware that the other two ELCA churches already share a minister, so that is not an option. The group decided to encourage mask wearing again with the uptick of the virus, and some members are already doing so. Bryan will make signs encouraging it, but at this time, council will not require it for attendance at services. God's Work, Our Hands is planned for September 12. Any member that has a project should let the office or a council member know.

In old business, Jane reported that most all the Wednesday Community meals are covered. She is meeting with the coordinator on August 25, then will create a plan to fol-

low for the groups hosting these, and try to have a meeting with them to ease the process. We are so grateful that our church members have stepped up to keep this service going. It appears that Holy Trinity will also be helping, still waiting for the other two churches we reached out to for an answer.

Pastor Mark was unable to attend, so there was no report.

In Worship, Jane reported that Allison and Jane will be covering all but two of the service music duties this fall. Colette will help when neither of them can be there, but her barn rental duties keep her really busy on weekends. We are blessed to have all three in our service. Jane will start choosing contemporary hymns to open services on the Sundays when Allison plays.

In Faith Formations, backpack blessing Sunday is prepared. A meeting is being called to decide how Sunday School will be conducted this

fall.

In property, the minutes were reviewed. Highlights include plans to replace bathroom floors in three locations, and purchase flat screen televisions to replace the projection system in the sanctuary. A better device for recording services is also being looked into. Other maintenance projects are ongoing. The council noticed that shrub trimming was mentioned, and thought that could be tackled on the work Sunday.

In Fellowship, the corn boil ran smoothly and was well attended, over 60 members were served. Coffee hour will continue for those feeling comfortable to attend. Kay continues to call members to be involved in this activity.

Staff Support will be meeting soon.

The next meeting will be September 16, Jim will provide devotions. Bryan moved and Kay seconded to adjourn.



### Prayer

**The Lord gives a wide array of talents and knowledge to us all so we may serve one another through both paid and unpaid work.**

**"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. ... The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart" (Psalm 19:7-8). We are beloved children of God, members of the body of our Lord .**

**As our Creator designed green leaves to turn fiery yellow, orange and red, may His word rekindle your faith with the fire of the Holy Spirit**





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



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**Watch Past and Live  
services !**

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