

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

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1:00—5:00 p.m.
or by appointment



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From Pastor Mark Holmes

A WORD OF
THANKS...

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the incredible blessings in our lives. God is so good! As for me, I wanted to get a head start on expressing my thanks, because I have so much to be thankful for. Yeah... that might be hard to believe as I sit here with very limited mobility... but hear me out.

During these last few months, I have been overwhelmed by your love and concern as I have faced various knee treatments, and ultimately, knee replacement surgery. Thank you. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your cards and messages. Thank you for this time away to focus on my health and healing. I pray that you are being richly blessed by the pastors who share God's message with you each week. They are good folks.

By the time you

read this, I will have two new knees. There will still be plenty of pain and physical therapy ahead, but I am thankful for this second chance. It is a gentle reminder of the "second chance" we get from God the Father. When we mess up and make mistakes, the forgiveness we receive through the cross of Jesus Christ allows us the opportunity to leave the past behind and begin again. I was not very kind to my first set of knees; and quite frankly, it was only a matter of time before my knees rebelled. I could pretend I was twenty years old for only so long.

But now, I have a second chance. WE have a second chance because of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. Our God is a God of second chances. The gifts of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness are ours... no strings attached. Will we fall down again? Sure. But God continues to walk with us and will be

there to help us up again... and give us one more opportunity to begin again!

I look forward to my return and seeing each of you. If all goes well, my target date to return is Sunday, November 21st. I may not have my track shoes on by then, but I'll get there. God is good and I look forward to this marvelous "second chance"!

Living in God's Amazing Grace!

Pastor Mark Holmes



*Next Meeting
Wednesday
November 3rd
6:30 PM.*

If you or a loved one is in need of prayer please contact the church office 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

Naaman, the commander of the Aramean army, had leprosy.



Who told his wife about a prophet in Samaria who might be able to cure Naaman? And who was that prophet?

- A. the king of Aram; Elijah
- B. Naaman's wife's sister; Isaiah
- C. an Israelite servant girl; Elisha
- D. a visiting emissary from Israel; Jeremiah

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 November.

Canned Corn & Green beans,

Baked Beans,

Tuna 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.

Zinga News!

Zinga Update—MCH!

In October, we came together to raise funds to complete the Maternal and Child Health facility (MCH) at Zinga. It will be exciting to see the progress as the funds arrive in Tanzania. Look for our total gift in the December newsletter! First Lutheran, through Choices in Mission, matches our gifts dollar for dollar up to \$5,000, and in addition, an anonymous donor has put up a \$25,000 matching gifts challenge. Things are looking good for the Maternal and Child Health center.



Soon, this wide open space will be a venue for education and vaccination clinics. Well-child examinations will take place in three rooms carved out of the shipping container that makes up most of the back wall, and the chaplain will have his own office along the side wall. Sele and his crew are ready to complete the job. Thanks be to God!



Time to double down

After you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the Devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation and good deeds. For if Satan's temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, he'll have an incentive to leave you alone.

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)



"Giving Thanks Calendar"

In November we celebrate Thanksgiving. When was the last time you paused and thought about the word "Thanksgiving". What does it mean? For many it means a big family dinner. But really- it means to give thanks.

Last year we gave thanks using a "Giving Thanks Calendar". We are going to do that again this year.

It really helped the food pantry.

The Service Committee encourages you and those you live with to create a Giving Thanks box, and put one item for the food pantry in it daily, beginning Sunday November 7. We will collect these boxes on Sunday, December 5 and 12. The boxes will be delivered to the Salvation Army the week of

December 12 and the items will be used in their Christmas boxes..

Here is the suggested Giving Thanks calendar

November 7: one box of cereal (preferably not sugar sweetened)

November 8: peanut butter

November 9: Stuffing mix

November 10: boxed potatoes

November 11: macaroni and cheese

November 12: canned fruit (light syrup or canned in juice preferred)

November 13: canned tomatoes

November 14: dessert mix

November 15: jar of applesauce (unsweetened preferred)

November 16: canned sweet potatoes

November 17: cranberry sauce

November 18: can of baked beans

November 19: box of crackers

November 20: package of rice

November 21: package of oatmeal

November 22: package of pasta

November 23: spaghetti sauce

November 24: chicken noodle soup

November 25: tomato soup

November 26: can of corn

November 27: canned tuna

November 28: box of tuna helper

November 29: can of carrots

November 30: can of green beans

December 1: bar of soap

December 2: package of tooth paste

December 3: tooth brushes (as many as you would like, remember to put child size ones in too)

December 4: bottle of shampoo

***For any day you want to make a substitution please provide baked beans, canned corn, canned green beans or macaroni and cheese. These are all items that will be used in the Salvation Army Christmas box.

Bring your box to church on December 5 or 12. They will be delivered to the Salvation Army the week of December 12.



Nicole George 11/01
 Tiffany Ketcham 11/01
 Shad Marvelli 11/02
 Andrew Ketcham 11/03
 Betty Peterson 11/08
 James Baker 11/11
 Brock Jordan 11/13
 Carolyn Kirchhoff 11/13
 Dennis Porter 11/14
 Larry Birkenholz 11/16
 Brittany McNeer 11/16
 Marjorie Baker 11/19
 Dennis Dobesh 11/22
 Mary Ann Iske 11/23

The subversive table

“The Lord’s Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants,” writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. “The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where ‘there shall be no difference between them and the rest.’” Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom “them” refers to “the wicked and the righteous.”

In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through Christ’s body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn’t like him. But at the Lord’s table, though “divided in the larger world,” we shared a sacrament

with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another’s rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God’s kingdom subverting the world’s tendency to divide.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Thank you to everyone that helped by giving clothing, setting up, and breaking down the Neighbors Helping Neighbors clothing give away.

Honoring our veterans

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.



Christian symbol



CORNUCOPIA—

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning “horn of plenty,” has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.



November 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, healthy home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared

ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Giving Back to Their Community

Amber and Donald had always felt called to provide foster care. But any time they would consider taking the leap and starting the process, the thought of "what if?" would leave them feeling stuck. Now, Amber can't imagine life without the children her family has cared for over the years.

Amber and Donald became

licensed to provide foster care and adopt children almost seven years ago. Since then, they have provided foster care for 17 Iowa children and adopted six. Amber says one of her favorite parts of the experience is seeing her adult children bond with each child who enters their home.

"It's crazy to see our 25-year-old so bonded with our two-year-old. We don't label the kids as 'adoptive' or 'biological', they're just all our kids," Amber says. "That bond is just as huge whether it's biological or not."

As Iowa continues to see a need for more foster and adoptive families, Amber says becoming licensed is one way Iowans can give back to their community.

"God gives us all gifts, and parenting and helping in the community seemed to be what He put in our hearts," Amber says. "If you haven't found a place to help in your community, consider foster care and adoption," she says. "It could be exactly what your purpose is."



Church Council Meeting Review :

The council met on October 21. Eric provided devotions, minutes were approved and a treasures' report was reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Names for new council members were brought forth, the council will contact those folks and report back on success. Pastor Mark's wife is retiring at the end of the year which changes his insurance costs. Jane moved and Kay seconded to increase his monthly stipend to \$777.00 (an increase of \$177.00) which is likely what we would pay a new minister.

Motion passed.

Jane met with a couple that have booked our church for a September 17, 2022 wedding. The bride is a member of another Lutheran church in town, but need a bigger venue. Kay moved and Bryan seconded that we charge them \$500 (member fee) for the use of the church and request a refundable \$250 deposit to save the date. Motion passed. (They are providing their own minister, musician, and friend of our

church is acting as wedding/a.v. coordinator which reflects the rest of the non-member fee.)

The council is looking into a new computer for the treasurer, and possibly an online service for the records. Decision tabled until more information is provided. Corinne worked out paying the supply ministers with Pastor Mark. Dave, Corinne, and Bryan are working on the financial/stewardship plans in preparation for the stewardship and congregational meeting Sundays.

Corinne brought out a concern about the Mission Investment Fund plan. Two of the three people on that plan no longer live in town or attend our church. Council came up with three new names to place on that plan to replace all three presently listed. It was suggested that we no longer allow members to tithe using credit cards due to the percentage lost to the card company. Members presently using that can continue, but it

will no longer be an offered option. Jane moved and Kay seconded that we hold the Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. per Pastor Mark's approval. Motion passed. (Jane checked with him, and he approves.) Kay reported that the one circle still meeting is inviting members to visit and several have. May grow the group.

Property committee shared minutes from their meeting as well as a plan for dealing with our bat problem, they will continue to work on that. The call committee had met and worked through the plan from the Synod. They are planning a meeting with CUCC to finalize that plan. Corinne moved, Jane seconded to adjourn, motion passed.



Prayer

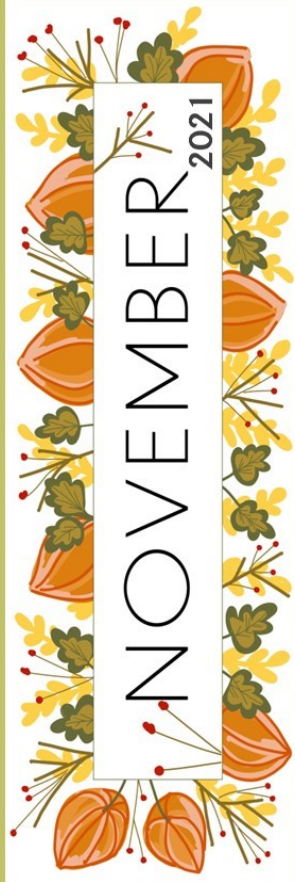
God, you went ahead of Elijah to Zarephath to provide for him and the widow's family (1 Kings 17). Remind me that wherever I go this week, you're already there, preparing the way. Alpha and Omega, the A and the Z, the beginning and the end: King Jesus, please rule in my life. We give you all of the praise and glory.

Giver of all good things, I am thankful beyond words for your generosity and love. Help me share your love broadly.

AMEN



"Dad's thankful service finished in time to rush home and see the big game!"



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Dorcas 9:00 AM	5	6
7 Kids church camp Worship Service 9:30am	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Commitment Sunday Worship Service 9:30am	15	16	17 <i>Lois Cr. 9:30 A.M.</i>	18 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	19	20
21 Worship Service 9:30am	22	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING Day Off  Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 Worship Service 9:30am	29	30				

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks
to him and praise his name.

PSALM 100:4, NIV

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

309 East Third Street North
Newton, Iowa
50208

office@newtonfirstlutheran.org

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

The Church office will be closed
Nov. 25th & 26th in observance of the
Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

FIRST
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Watch Past and Live
services !

newtonfirstlutheran.org
&
(on Facebook at)
First Lutheran Church-
Newton

Phone: 641-792-3934
E-mail:
firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org



All Saints' Day November 7th, 2021

THIS POOR SOUL CRIED,
AND WAS HEARD BY THE LORD,
AND WAS SAVED FROM
EVERY TROUBLE.

PSALM 34:6, NRSV

