

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

FEBRUARY

2022

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Newsletter From Council President Bryan Friedman

It is my honor to be elected to be president of the First Lutheran Council for 2022. I will do my best to serve God and our church. As we embark on a new period of transition, I wanted to share a brief message of gratitude and hope.

Thank you, Pastor Holmes! For nearly five years, Pastor Mark Holmes has faithfully served our congregation. He has led us through baptisms and funerals. Through joyous weddings and holidays. Through virtual services and community workdays. Whether delivering engaging sermons to the whole congregation or taking the time to have small, personal moments of comfort with individuals, Pastor Holmes was there for us. We are blessed to have had him serve us, and we have the opportunity to show our thanks on February 6th. If you are able, please attend worship and the reception for Pastor Holmes that

follows on that day.

Thank you, Jim Lammey! Jim has served as president of our church's Council the past two years. These were difficult times, but Jim helped guide us through them with steadiness and dedication. He has put in a lot of time and hard work to keep things running well with the Council and with First Lutheran in general. I greatly appreciate his leadership!

Thank you to all members of Council!

Jane Johnson has just ended her three-year term on Council, and I wanted to extend thanks to her for all that she added to the group. I also wanted to thank the other members of Council: Treasurer Corrine Coyle, Vice-President Eric Jordan, Secretary Kay Hesse, and new members Allison Bartholmey and Steven Putz. If there are any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas regarding First Lutheran,

please feel free to share them with a member of Council.

Thank you to the Congregation of First Lutheran! What a steadfast and generous congregation we have been blessed with! The flexibility that everyone has shown the past two years has been very impressive. Thank you to everyone who has continued to share their time and talents with First Lutheran. We are a group that cares about each other and cares about our church!

Hope for 2022! I am energized and hopeful when I think about the year ahead. We do not know what God has in store for us, but I have faith that our future is strong. Together we will continue to celebrate God's love, grow in faith, and reach out in compassion to others!

Council President

Bryan Friedman

Pastor Mark has been our interim Pastor over the past 4+ years.

We will be holding a thank you for your service celebration February 6th, 2022, following Worship Service.

We will be providing Cake & Ice-cream. Please feel free to bring a Card to put in our card basket that we will be giving him during the celebration.

Bible Quiz

In the book of Revelation, who or what is "prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband"?

- A. The church
- B. The Spirit
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. The new Jerusalem



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

February & March.

Canned Soup (with a pull Tab top),

Tuna Helper, &

Spaghetti Oh's

have been requested.

Please take all donations directly to the Salvation army

Mon-Fri 8 am—4 pm

Thank you for being so generous.

What is a Blessing Box?

There are several in town, and maybe you have seen one and wondered what it was. A Blessing Box is placed in a public area and is a way to share life's necessities. The bottom line is- food and clothing. However, in watching various Blessing Boxes around town, many other items are also left there.

Who uses a Blessing Box? Someone who is in need.

The Blessing Boxes in town (those I am aware of) are across 3rd Ave from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the former Capstone property. On the south wall outside the American Legion, this is the largest one in town, about the size of a small closet. On the corner of N 2nd Ave E and E 2nd St. N, in the parking lot of the United Presbyterian Church, across the street from the Salvation Army. On the property of the Reformed Church on S 5th Ave E, and on the property of First Baptist Church, S 8th Ave E.

Can you contribute to a Blessing Box? Yes! Just drop off a can of soup or a box of macaroni and cheese, a box of raisins, a box of cereal-anything non-perishable as you don't know when someone will come find it!

If you are sorting a drawer or a closet and want to leave the items you are cleaning out for someone to find- a Blessing Box is an ideal solution. Please make sure you are leaving clothing that is in season. Remember, many of the people who look to Blessing Boxes do not have storage. They are not looking for next year's swimming suit just now- they are looking for something warm to wear right now.

If you look inside a Blessing Box and see trash- by all means take it to a place to throw it away! Mark and I occasionally clean the box at the Legion, and have thrown away an old muffler, unmated shoes, we always check the pants to make sure the zippers work, and have brought home a huge sack of unmated socks to wash and pair- and threw away 29 that did not have a mate. Bottom line- it is not a place to hope someone will find a use for your trash.

Please don't confuse them with the many Little Free Libraries in town that are dedicated to sharing books.

Questions? Ask us!

Mark and Judy Monroe



**Congratulations Anna Coyle
on making the
Grandview University Presidents List.
Everyone here at First Lutheran is very proud
of all hard work and dedication you have put
in to make this happen.**



PRESIDENT'S LIST

Fall 2021

Tanner Abbas Kanawha, IA	Blake Beaune Indianola, IA	Ava Conrad Solon, IA
Reed Abbas Kanawha, IA	Grace Bohlen Independence, IA	Madalynn Constable Ankeny, IA
Chase Adams Mount Pleasant, IA	Alan Borroz Carlisle, IA	Keely Cookson Cedar Rapids, IA
Diana Aguayo Des Moines, IA	Emily Box West Point, IA	Karla Cortez Des Moines, IA
Alexa Aldrich-Ingram Iowa City, IA	Owen Braungardt Rock, KS	Danielle Costain Greenfield, IA
Emily Alexander Adel, IA	Anna Breese Des Moines, IA	Thomas Cox Newton, IA
Philipp Amann Reilingen, Germany	Jenna Brown Gilbertville, IA	Anna Coyle Newton, IA
Trevor Anderson Glenwood, IA	Mary Brown Des Moines, IA	Gabrielle Criscuolo Pella, IA
Rachel Anderson Eldridge, IA	Jenna Bruns Parkersburg, IA	Charity Dangelser Newton, IA
Juliana Arifi Le Grand, IA	Evan Callaghan Stellarton, NS Canada	Nicholas Danielson Mason City, IA
Jacob Backlund Des Moines, IA	Kaitlyn Camp West Des Moines, IA	Logan Disbrow Chattanooga, TN
Joseph Bagley Runnells, IA	Megan Chapman Adel, IA	Seth Diser Marshalltown, IA
Lauren Bair Braddyville, IA	Caleb Chmelka Council Bluffs, IA	Shelby Dobberthein Chariton, IA
Brianda Bane Maxwell, IA	Karolyna Colon-Campos Des Moines, IA	Courtney Dolash West Des Moines, IA

Property Committee information

2021 was a very busy year for the Property Committee! 2022 will be no exception!

Several projects will be in the process of completion.

- Completion of painting different areas of the exterior of windows of the educational unit.
- Painting of the car port area along with some trim painting.
- Painting and redecorating the two rest rooms by the Office area.
- Updating the Pastor's office.

New Projects

- Updating our camera system for streaming our church services.
- Installing new projectors or televisions in front of sanctuary to better facilitate viewing.
- Address our large bat population in attic. We will be looking for economic cost saving solutions.
- Landscape the west side of church lawn to repair areas torn up by the lifts used to replace roof.

Thanks to our many members of our congregation who assist in these projects both through volunteering or financially!

Our Church property and contents are valued over 3.5 million for insurance purposes.

If you see anything that needs our attention - please contact the Property Committee!



Community Meal

THANK YOU to the people that help with our Wednesday Night Community Dinners! Wednesday Night Community Dinners are at the Methodist Church and our next meal is on the February 23rd. Please come and help as many hands make for light work. Come help Jesus feed the hungry.

February

BIRTHDAYS



Marlys Amundsen 02/04

Arthur III Greves 02/05

Jane Johnson 02/10

Katie Cantu 02/12

Sarah Grunig 02/12

Andrew Lammey 02/14

Jayne Goos 02/15

Bryan Friedman 02/23

Alex Anderson 02/27

Bethany Baumgartner

02/27

Evelyn George 02/27

Ashlyn Karsten 02/27



Zinga News!

Please continue to pray for rain for Tanzania! The rains failed, and people are suffering. The Children's Hospital is seeing more and more patients suffering from malnutrition, and the situation is dire.



The good news is that they are not seeing as many Covid patients as earlier. The virus seems not to be as rampant in the Zinga area. We pray that this trend will continue, so it will be safe again for teams of volunteers to arrive, both medical teams and building teams.

Faith's role in love

In It's Okay Not to Be Okay, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV). But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand." Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."



Christian symbol



VALLEY—

Valleys symbolize life's dark or low points; for example, Psalm 23:4 refers to "the valley of the shadow of death" (ESV). But valleys also symbolize people who find God's favor because they're lowly and meek. As a result, valleys can be places of blessing. God lifts his people out of despair and rewards their faithfulness. He also promises to "level" conditions by raising up valleys and bringing down mountains (see Isaiah 40:4).



February 2022 , LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19
Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families; in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures; in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence; in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families; and in so many other moments of joy.

You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Debo

Jrah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065. -----

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

Experiencing Love Incarnate

Penelope had been in and out of residential treatment at various facilities across Iowa for a few years. Her most recent placement was at LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, which provides 24/7 behavioral healthcare and support for children and teens.

Upon her arrival, Penelope was able to build a relationship with the new LSI Spiritual Life Leader, Pastor Kyle. The voluntary Spiritual Life program connects youth on Bremwood's campus to faith-based music and art, youth group, and chapel sessions. After Pastor Kyle had begun to settle into his new call with LSI, he began hosting a worship service each week for children on campus centered around the

eucharist. Penelope enjoyed participating in worship and encouraged her peers to join in.

One day while talking with Penelope, Pastor Kyle asked her what got her so excited about worship and why she encouraged her peers to attend.

"Dude," Penelope responded. "It's because we get communion!"

As Pastor Kyle continued the conversation with Penelope, the two discussed the importance of communion and how being fed through the bread of life empowered us to live amongst and for our neighbors.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, Penelope's story about receiving the sacrament of communion helps us to remember that our love for one another is possible through the one who first loved us. No matter who we might receive valentines or sweet treats from on Feb. 14, we trust that all are embraced in love through Jesus Christ.



No regrets!

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!" To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).

The church council met on
January 20, 2022
at 6:30.

All council members and Pastor Mark were in attendance as well as Jim Lammey, Jane Johnson, & Stan Kirchhoff. Bryan provided devotions, and the minutes were reviewed and approved.

Property Committee shared information and costs about our building insurance. The wind and hail deductible added to our insurance policy is \$2,664.40 per year. The Property Committee and Council agreed not to pay the added wind and hail insurance. The plan is to set up a savings account for any damage to our building due to wind or hail.

Call Committee has updated their profile and sent it to the Synod office. Pulpit Supply, Pastor, is covered through the end of February. Shared Lenten Services, First Lutheran is welcomed to go to Holy Trinity for services. Installation of officers was com-

pleted and Passed
Bryan Friedman is President,
Eric Jordan is Vice President, &
Kay Hesse is Secretary .
Preparation for Pastor Marks
exit;

The Prayer Chain Members
lead by Kay will help with
visiting members at home/
hospital?

When Nicole is not in the office, Council is asking members to help with this coming in and answering the phone and talking to visitors.

In case of a Funeral, Inform
Pastor Kari Lee of Holy Trinity
first.

Board Retreat/Training will be held on Feb. 6th following

Pastor Marks reception.
Steve & Allison have been
trained by Jim.

Pancake Brunch will be on February 27 during fellowship time.

Council agreed to open the church up for events .
Bylaws review & changes were

made for the final proof for the annual meeting.

Pastor reports one funeral and two baptisms. Meeting with shut ins and giving communion.

The treasurer report was reviewed. The storm damage from the roof is now at a \$0 balance.

Faith Formations the children times are planned out for the upcoming months.

Lutheran Disaster relief fund match of \$2,500 went up to a match of \$5,000

Bryan motioned to increase the Lutheran Disaster relief match to \$5,000, and the motion was passed. The next meeting is February 17.

Devotions by Corrine.

Prayer

God, when you call me to a task , help me to respond like Isaiah: “Here am I; send me!” (6:8). I come to you with a whole host of emotions and distractions. You know them all.

Wrap me in your love, that I may rest. Holy Spirit, you have awakened us to this new day. We praise you! Open our hearts to whatever new thing you are doing in my life.

Sometimes, Lord, you appear to us in brightness; sometimes, we hear your voice out of a cloud. Whatever our circumstances, may I be assured of your presence.

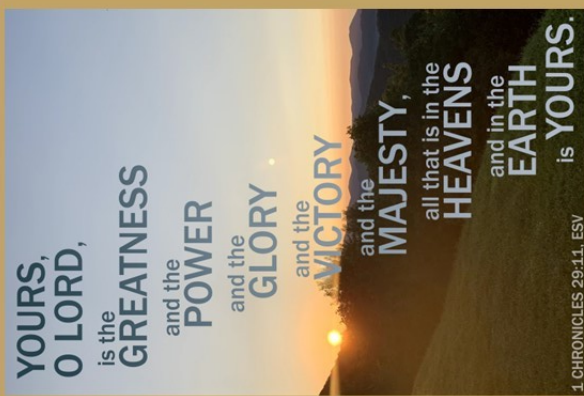
AMEN

Special dates

- African American History Month
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2022
- Presidents Day, February 21, 2022
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 27, 2022



This was the moment that Jerry and his “fabulous monochromed piano necktie” began to get worried.



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

As most of you know our
Interim Pastor Mark Holmes is
retiring. We will be having a
Thank you for your service
Fellowship following service on
February 6th.

We are having a Card shower for Pastor Mark at the party on Feb. 6th. Please feel free to drop a card off in the basket in the Narthex or bring it with you on the 6th. We look forward to seeing everyone here.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Property Meeting	3 Dorcas 9:00 AM	4	5
6 Kids church camp Worship Service 9:30am Followed by Thank you Fellowship Council Retreat	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship Service 9:30am	14	15	16 Lois Cr. 9:30 AM	17 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	18	19
20 Worship Service 9:30am	21	22	23 Community Meal	24	25	26
27 Pancake Brunch Following Worship Worship Service 9:30am	28					

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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