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



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Newsletter From Council President Bryan Friedman

March begins with Shrove Tuesday, and then we are into the Lenten season. Lent is a time of reflection. I was reflecting back on the first time I had the privilege of leading the Council at First Lutheran, more than fifteen years ago. Many things were different then. We had some different members and different services. We had different staffing and different activities. We had an enormous organ that was starting to be in need of an overhaul (so glad that has been fixed!) and a temperamental elevator (some things never change). As I reflect on the past, even with all the differences, I like to focus on the things that have stayed the same. We still worship together every Sunday. We are still a faithful, dedicated group that seeks to serve each other and the community around us. And we are still forever redeemed by God's unending grace.

First Lutheran has been a source of comfort and hope to our community of believers for more than 150 years. Built on the rock that is Christ, our Church has been buffeted by many difficulties and changes through the decades, yet we have carried on. We have suffered enormous personal losses and heartbreaks, yet we have carried on. We have gone through the upheaval of dozens of pastoral changes that disrupt our comfortable habits and force adjustment, yet we have carried on. We have felt the impacts of economic calamities that have befallen ourselves, our neighbors, and our community, yet we have carried on. And we are still living in challenging times, and we will carry on!

We have been very blessed with supporting resources to help us carry on in 2022. We have had an outpouring of pastors in the region eager to lead

Sunday worship services in the upcoming weeks. We have Pastor Marcia Kisner from Cambridge willing to provide regular pastoral care visits for our members. We are also blessed by the generosity and hospitality of the other ELCA churches in Jasper County (Holy Trinity in Newton and St. Andrew's near Sully) to share Wednesday Lenten services with our members.

Thank you for your continued dedication to carrying on the strong legacy of First Lutheran in Newton! We know that nothing ever stays the same and that we will always have to adjust to changes, but if our focus remains on Christ's message of love and salvation, we have faith that we will find solid footing for our future.

Thank you,
Council President
Bryan Friedman

Girl Scout Cookies

Emily Cantu is selling Girl Scout cookies . She has a lot to sell to get to her goal of horse camp and "Girl Scout Day" at Adventureland this year. Cookies are \$5/package and most of the money raised goes directly back to Emily and her Troop.

Her last day taking orders is March 20th. We can be contacted for cookie requests at cantu@iowatelecom.net. Emily can take cash, check, or she has an online link for credit cards.



Thanks for your support!

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 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.

Attention Thrivent Members: You may have Thrivent Choice Dollars which can be directed to First Lutheran Church!

On March 31, 2022 the 2021 Choice Dollars that have been available for eligible Thrivent members to allocate to First will expire and cannot be designated any longer as they will start accumulating for the new year. If you are a Thrivent member, time is of the essence to allocate the funds that may be available to you from last year; it is "use it or lose it" time. It doesn't cost you a thing to have Thrivent give money to First Lutheran Church or, for that matter another qualifying organization of your choice, through the Choice program. To find out if you have Choice Dollars available to designate or to direct any Choice Dollars, you can simply call Thrivent (800-847-4836) and say "Choice Dollars". You can also log into your account and do this as well. Through Thrivent Choice, you can contribute to organizations and causes you care about and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funding. Thrivent Choice provides an online giving platform where you can also make personal donations. Many Thrivent members have chosen to have their available Choice Dollars allocated to First. Since this option became available in July 2010 Thrivent members have allocated \$24,321.00 to First Lutheran Church. Time to act is now; there is no reason to leave the money on the table.

Also if you have any Thrivent products you can readily sponsor and lead a Thrivent Action Team. The program is simple and easy and can give you up to \$250 in the form of a VISA card to use to support the projects of your choosing to meet the many needs we see at First and in our community. Here is a link to the Action Team Hub that has examples of Action Team Projects: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/community/thrivent-action-teams/detail> The creative use of this funding is easy and the results are quite awesome! Some ideas that come to mind include: food for the community meals, food for the blessing boxes, food for a special church celebration or an event like the sweet corn feed, Bury the Altar project, supplies for quilting, the clothing giveaway...if you can identify a need for funding, it is easy to simply ask if it might be something that could be supported through an Action Team project. If you have any questions about Action Teams, call Thrivent (800-847-4836) and say "Action Teams"! Or let us know and we can help you get started.

Craig and Betty Peterson



Meet Pastor Marcia Kisner

Pastor Marcia Kisner has been hired to do Pastoral Care Visits for First Lutheran.

What is Pastor Marcia's roll here at First Lutheran while providing pastoral care?

She will be doing in home visits (which includes providing communion for our parishioners that are unable to come to church to receive it on their own.) If we have any funerals, or weddings she will be able to perform them. If you would like to schedule a home visit or a in office visit please call the church office (at 641-792-3934) and make an appointment. We can set appointments starting Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 between 10:00am-3:00pm.

Pastor Marcia is pastor at Nazareth Lutheran Church and has been there for 23 years. She loves serving God and God's people. She is a story teller and looks forward to hearing your stories. She loves to laugh and will share funny stories with you and hopes you have some funny things to share with her. She loves the snow. One of her favorite pastimes is actually looking out window with cup of coffee in hand and playing

cards with best friends. Her congregation accuses of praying for snow, which is true. I love when the snow covers everything in a beautiful white blanket.

She is looking forward to meeting you.

Peace and blessings.



The Lord bless
and keep you.



Pastor Marcia at VBS. Loves VBS
since she was a little kid.

Bury the Altar is Back!!

Bury the Altar returns during Lent

Beginning Sunday March 6 we will work to bury the altar once again. We did it last year when we were not meeting in person, let's try again! We will collect food every Sunday through

April 3. Although all nonperishable foods are welcome the following foods were identified by the Salvation Army as always appreciated:

- Tuna Helper
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned Soups
- SpaghettiOs
- Spaghetti noodles
- Macaroni
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit

A Thrivent member has already volunteered to write an Action Plan to purchase hamburger.

When purchasing cereal aim for cereals without added sugar. Other helpful hints are low sodium and low sugar foods.

Thank you all!

Service Committee

Saying Goodbye Is Never Easy. Come Celebrate With Sharon & Her Family!

As many of you have heard, long time member Sharon Petersma will be moving away to be closer to her daughter Vicky in Elizabethtown, PA. Her family would like to invite you to join them for Fellowship on **March 20th** to celebrate Sharon's 92nd birthday. This is also a chance to say goodbye,

and celebrate her new beginnings together

If you would like to send her a card you may send them here to First Lutheran or to her home address. Her mail will be forwarded so it will reach her. We do hope to see all of you there.

The family of Sharon, Vicky (Hill) & Jay Petersma.



Zinga News!



Ron Grunig 03/01
 Dawn Lucas 03/05
 Denise McVey 03/05
 Pam Comer 03/08
 Arlene Byers 03/09
 Pat Foote 03/09
 Robyn Friedman 03/18
 Sharon Petersma 03/19
 Michael Hodnett 03/27
 Meagan Frehse 03/31



*There will be
NO meeting in
 March.*

In Tanzania, when a girl has her period, she must often stay home and miss school. Things like Always pads are for sale in the big grocery stores in Dar es Salem, but in Zinga, such things are not available, and even if they were, they would be way too expensive. It is “tradition” for girls and women to stay home during menstruation.

A few years ago, women of First Lutheran had several workshops where we sewed reusable menstrual pads for girls. Using patterns similar to those from an organization called Days for Girls, we created kits with several pads, panties, and ziplock bags contained in colorful drawstring bags that gave no hint as to what was inside.

The girls could carry their supplies with them without embarrassment, and did not have to miss school. What a blessing!



These girls just received their kits and will no longer have to miss school several days each month.

At Zinga, a team from the Children’s Hospital visits the schools to talk with the headmistresses or teachers to find out which girls consistently miss a few days of school each month. These girls are then given the kits. In addition to the pads, the kits also contain literature on female anatomy and good health practices.

Providing young women with these kits and the information that goes with them is a wonderful way to do outreach into the community. The kits are gifts of value and caring for young women, who no longer risk falling behind in school by missing several days each month. That security alone is life-changing.

First Lutheran raised \$3,075 for Lutheran Disaster Relief. With the churches match of \$3,075, brings us to a grand total of \$6,1500 donated to those who needed it so desperately during this time. Thank you to everyone who donated to this Choice In Mission for the moths of December and January!



Mid-Week Lutheran Worship - 7 Perspective on Lent, 2022 Reflections on Christ's Counter-Cultural Calling

First Lutheran, Holy Trinity, & St Andrew's Lutheran Churches. As Children of God we gather, not as individual congregations, but as brothers and sisters in Christ who share in the same blessings from Christ. Come as you are. All are welcome!

March 2, [Ash Wednesday \(Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21\)](#) (Free to View)

Perspective 1: Pretense (*Alms & Prayer, Given in Secret*)
"Christ challenges us to live from a place of authentic worship in secrecy rather than the hypocritical pretense of outward religion meant to impress and deceive."
Lent is a time to take off our masks and come as we are.
Q. What masks do we need to remove?

March 6, [First Sunday of Lent, \(Luke 4:1-13\)](#)

Perspective 2: Probation (*Wilderness, Fasting, & Testing*)
"Christ's time of probation in the wilderness forged the mettle of his resolve as both human and divine, a testing that we experience and know in the frailty of our humanity but fail to overcome."
Lent is a time to test our resolve to trust in that which matters most.
Q. What tests our trust?

March 13, [Second Sunday of Lent \(Luke 13:31-35\)](#)

Perspective 3: Persecution (*Herod & Jerusalem Pursue the Prophet*)
"Christ takes ridicule and threats for what they are, subordinate and in service to the purposes of God. Persecution should shape resolve rather than shun it."
Lent is a time to let go of our fear of the people and things that plague us.
Q. What makes us flee from living out God's purpose for us?

March 20, [Third Sunday of Lent \(Luke 13:1-9\)](#)

Perspective 4: Penitence (*The Pursuit of Repentance: Pilate, Pillars & Figs*)
"Christ offers a life of flourishing and fruitfulness, an honest life, a truth-telling life and not of lies, an open-book life for him to read, to edit, and to re-write. He calls us to a place of penitence."
Lent is a time to open our closets and let God clean them out.
Q. In what way do we need to open the closets of our souls and the covers of our lives to God?

March 27, [Fourth Sunday of Lent \(Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32\)](#)

Perspective 5: Prodigious (*Welcome & Dine with Sinners*)
"Christ loves younger brothers and sisters, wayward souls, people who mess up regularly and royally. He pleads with the older siblings among

us to welcome them too as he welcomes us. His love is prodigious and thus also should be ours"

Lent is a time to unashamedly love the wrecked and broken.

Q. How can we love the wrecked and broken if we think that does not apply to us?

April 3, [Fifth Sunday of Lent \(John 12:1-8\)](#)

Perspective 6: Perfume (*Mary's Costly Perfume*)
"Christ praises the costly gift of a follower who lavishly pours out the best she has for the One who has everything. It is not the gift that is remembered, but the one who gives it with such gratitude that is the fragrant perfume to God."
Lent is a time to recklessly give all we have to God.
Q. What might we lavishly give to God; what might it cost us.

April 10, [Sixth Sunday of Lent, Liturgy of the Palms/Palm Sunday \(Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29\)](#)

Perspective 7: Procession (*Blessed Entry & The Open Gates of Righteousness*)
"Christ's life moves forward with purpose even if that procession leads from triumph to tragedy. It is through the tragedy in the end, that true triumph emerges."
Lent is a time to evaluate the purpose of our lives.
Q. What might it look like for us to proceed with righteous intent?

Ash Wednesday, and Lenten Services

First Lutheran will be joining Holy Trinity and St. Andrew's Lutheran Churches for Ash Wednesday, all Wednesday Lenten Services and Holy week. (We will be holding Palm Sunday and Easter services here at First Lutheran.) Service will start at 6:00pm and will be followed with a meal at 6:30.
All are welcome to attend.

Masks are not required but strongly suggested.

Ash Wednesday, Services March 2nd, will be held at Holy Trinity-Newton.
You may also join us for "Ashes to Go". Ash Wednesday 12 :00pm—1:00pm at First Lutheran in the carport turn around. Parishioners can pull up, remain in their car to receive ashes on their forehead and a blessing.

Wednesday, March 9th, will be held at St. Andrew's—Sully
Wednesday, March 16th, will be held at Holy Trinity— Newton
Wednesday, March 23rd, will be held at St. Andrew's—Sully
Wednesday, March 30th, will be held at Holy Trinity— Newton
Wednesday, April 6th, will be held at St. Andrew's—Sully

Please follow this link for to watch on line midweek service from Pastor Kari Lee
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdNE6rIMWVexEpqj8D48yPFA>

Church Council Meeting Review :

The church council met on February 17th, 2022 at 6:30.

All council members were in attendance. Kay provided devotions (a small prayer was said), and the minutes were reviewed and approved.

Goals for Council were discussed for the 2022 year, which includes Calling a Pastor, Increasing Engagement, and Enliven the music in worship. A "Thank you" from the ELCA was received for the donation we sent to them.

There will be no changes to our current worship service. Pulpit Supply Pastor is covered through the end of June.

We will be having shared Lenten Services, First Lutheran is welcomed to go to Holy Trinity and St. Andrew's for services. Pastor Marcia Kisner will be starting with pastoral care (interim ship) with us on Thursday, March 3rd. She will

come to First Lutheran Church and receive an update, and a schedule of who to visit for that day. Pastor Marcia will also do any hospital visits, Funerals, or weddings that will need to be performed until we receive a called pastor.

Eric spoke about a conversation he had with Pat foot regarding Worship Committee. Pat is wanting to phase out of her position on the committee. She is willing to train anyone who is willing to join the committee. We will be inviting anyone who would like to be a part of the worship committee to join. In Old Business, the Pancake Breakfast was on February 27 during fellowship time. Council served pancakes, fruit bowls, and link sausages.

The Treasurer's Report was given and special reserve accounts were discussed.

Corinne asked to transfer special reserve account from

endowment earnings to mission's support funds per B3.10C in Bylaws. Request to transfer money from Us Bank General Savings, and Us Bank General Checking to have a reasonably close match in Building Fund-Savings Account with the building fund amount on balance sheet. The motion was made to approve this request by Allison, seconded by Steve, motion Passed. Council reviewed the calendar for March. No changes were made. The next meeting will be held March 17. Devotions will be provided by Kay Hesse. A motion by Corrine to adjourn, which was seconded by Eric., Motion carried.



First Lutheran Children and Families: start thinking about Summer Camp now!

It may still be chilly outside but lots of Summer camps are already open for registration! If your kids have interest in attending any Lutheran affiliated church camp, First Lutheran Church has the funding ability to help you out! Because of generous donations by individuals in the past, there is money designated in our youth fund to help support this type of experience for our First Lutheran youth. Camp Riverside in Story City has camps for ages from 3rd grade through 12th grade and is the location the majority of our students have attended in the past but you can also consider other Lutheran affiliated camps in Iowa, too. The process for this is simple, when you fill out a registration form for your child for camp, just mark on the form that the full cost will be paid by a church and give the name of our church within the registration form when it requests it.



Our youth have highly benefited from this experience for several years in the past.

Please reach out to Corinne Coyle or Robyn Friedman for more information if needed.



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



Ash Wednesday Services will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church March 2nd 2022 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to stay for a meal following service.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	Ash Wednesday 2 Service at (Holy Trinity) 6pm, followed by a meal at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!	3 Dorcas 9:00 AM	4	5
Kids church camp Pastor Rachel Mithelman Worship Service 9:30am	7	8	9 Lenten services @ St. Andrew's	10	11	12
Pastor Rachel Mithelman Worship Service 9:30am	14	15	16 Lois Cr. 9:30 AM Lenten services @ Holy Trinity	17	18	19
Party For Sharon Petersma Pastor Mark Pries Worship Service 9:30am	21	22	23 Community Meal Lenten services @ St. Andrew's	24 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	25	26
Pastor Ronald Zimany Worship Service 9:30am	28	29	30 Lenten services @ Holy Trinity	31		

Lenten service will be held every Wednesday Alternating locations between Holy Trinity (Newton) and St. Andrew's (Sully). At 6pm, followed by a meal (provided by the hosting church) at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join!
We will be holding Palm Sunday and Easter services here at First Lutheran with Pastor Racheal Mithelman.

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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