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LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Monday—Friday
8:30 am -
12:30 pm



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

June 2022



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THE COVENANT FOR THE SHARED MINISTRY HAS PASSED!

**THE COVENANT FOR
THE SHARED MINISTRY
OF FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH, NEWTON, IO-
WA AND CONGREGA-
TIONAL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST,
NEWTON, IOWA Passed
25 to 8!**

*The following is what
we can expect next.*

By the grace of God, and in the Spirit of Jesus, and with the willing consent of both congregations; we covenant to work together to provide for a shared ministry in and among the members of Congregational United Church of Christ and First Lutheran Church.

Congregational United Church of Christ and First Lutheran Church are located across the alley from one another. Each congregation created a church profile for its own search process, staying in com-

munication along the way so that shared ideals and understandings could be expressed authentically and transparently. Both churches indicated a need for half-time ministry before beginning discussions about the possibility of sharing a full-time pastor. Each congregation was presented with information about the logistics of sharing a ministry and each congregation approved the exploratory stage in the process. Representatives of the two churches met a number of times to discuss the logistics of sharing. The two congregations have now approved the shared ministry proposal based on the following information.

1. Continuity of Identity

Although we are joined together as one in the Body of Christ, this ministry relationship maintains the distinct identities of each con-

gregation. This shared ministry is not a merger, consolidation, nor a dissolution of either congregation. Both churches will maintain their own constitution, budget, councils and committee structures.

2. Term of Shared Ministry

Both congregations agree to continue engaging in this shared ministry for three years. After three years, the shared ministry will continue on an annual basis with the approval of both congregations. Dissolution of the shared ministry cannot be accomplished prior to consultation with the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the Central Association of the Iowa Conference.

3. Joint Council Meetings

Joint Council will consist of 3 members from each church council and meetings will

Continued on Pg. 2&3

take place four times a year (quarterly). Location of these meetings will alternate between each church. The joint council will elect a chairperson and secretary annually.

4. Sharing a Pastor

One full-time pastor is shared between First Lutheran Church and Congregational United Church of Christ. The pastor will serve the two congregations based on a percentage of time in a work week: 50% time to First Lutheran Church and 50% time to Congregational United Church of Christ respectively. Both congregations covenant to be understanding and flexible towards this percentage of time functioning as a guideline due to the nature of the office and duties of a pastor. Additionally, the pastor will covenant to be present for both council meetings at each church each month and both annual meetings at each church. Attendance at activities and events will be discussed for the upcoming three months at each Joint Council meeting.

5. Financially Supporting a Pastor

First Lutheran Church covenants to provide 50% of the total cost of supporting one full-time pastor and Congregational United Church of Christ covenants

to provide 50%. This percentage arrangement will be reviewed at least annually to determine if adjustments need to be made based on average worship attendance and/or financial means of each congregation. One congregation will be the fiscal agent covering the pastoral salary and compensation package. The other congregation will reimburse their portion of pastoral salary and compensation package.

The total amount of financially supporting a pastor will be based on Minimum Compensation Guidelines from each denomination. Additionally, the pastor will maintain a log of mileage and other expenses for church business and activities related to each congregation and submit to each church for reimbursement on a monthly basis. In circumstances where the pastor is incurring mileage or expenses for both churches, First Lutheran Church and Congregational United Church of Christ covenant to share the cost of that shared mileage and other expenses 50%/50%.

6. Worship

Although each congregation maintains their own regular Sunday services, opportunities for worshiping God together will be lifted up throughout our shared ministry as well. Joint worship services may include mid-

week Lenten services, holiday services (such as Thanksgiving and/or New Year's Day), select Holy Week services (such as Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday), and 5th Sunday joint worship services. The Joint Council in partnership with the pastor will determine the frequency of these joint services.

Sunday Worship Service Times:

The pastor will be present at both congregations every Sunday, unless the pastor is on vacation or continuing education. Sunday worship times would be at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with thirty minutes between services. These times would be reviewed by the Joint Council as necessary.

Other Service Times:

There may be separate services at each congregation for Christmas Eve and Easter morning worship. These service times, and all other non-regular Sunday service times, will be discerned by both councils at Joint Council meetings.

7. Communication and Conflict Resolution

Both councils covenant to practice healthy communication and conflict resolution with one another and the pastor. As Christians, we understand this to take the form of Matthew 18 when we are in community with one another. Matthew 18 outlines the importance of addressing issues directly and compassionately, while uplifting the values of transparency, truth-telling



in love, integrity, forgiveness, reconciliation, and prayer.

8. Shared Ministry

Both congregations will continue to explore ways to expand our shared ministry and mission together for the sake of God's world, as well as ways to deepen our relationships with one another and our

communities. This may take the form of, but is not limited to, youth group, confirmation instruction, Christian education, newsletter, outreach activities, etc. We can do more as church together!

9. Review of Shared Ministry

The effectiveness of this shared ministry will be reviewed

annually and discussed at a Joint Council meeting. Affirmations and recommendations regarding this shared ministry will be discussed annually at the Joint Council meeting. The agenda will also include review of the covenant and all agreements listed within it.

Zinga News Update!

Finally, after a loooong Covid hiatus, plans are being made for more normal operations at the Children's Hospital at Zinga. Hopefully, before too long, neonatologist Dr. Charles Powell and his wife, pediatrician Dr. Lynne Powell, will join Dr. Bon and Dr. Kitundu as resident staff.

Traveling to Tanzania is not as precarious as it was earlier in the pandemic. In fact, the Mayo Clinic now allows its students to serve their residencies there, and Paula has had requests already.

By next summer, God willing, medical teams, work teams, and other visitors will be returning to Zinga. Dr. Charles Powell said it best:

"I cannot tell you how exciting it is to me to consider the return of visitors and teams. Our vision has always been not only to provide excellent care for the children and citizens of Tanzania, but also to encourage an exchange of information, culture, and ideas between our guests and the people of Tanzania. I am personally grateful for the love and support our donors have provided during a difficult time, not only for IHP but also for the world at large. Please accept my heartfelt thanks."

The church hive

Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ'" (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?



Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Neighbors Helping Neighbors is sponsoring a new project this summer. Due to the abundance of clothing drive projects around town in the past few years, this summer NHN will be collecting items needed by school teachers and school nurses, which the school budgets typically do not cover, yet many families cannot afford to provide for their children. We will be collecting these items at churches during the summer and delivering them to the schools during August before school opens. The teachers and nurses have identified these supplies as the ones needed most.

Nurses:

- pencils*
 - Kleenex*
 - poster board
 - index cards
 - post-its
 - expo markers*
 - binders*
 - glue sticks*
 - scissors
 - composition notebooks- these are the ones with the sewn in binding
 - mints (for coughs, cough drops cannot be dispensed)
 - ear buds
 - pencil eraser tops
 - loose leaf paper
 - expo erasers
 - crayons
 - 2 pocket folders- in solid colors
 - disinfecting wipes*
 - Sheet protectors
 - Highlighters
 - Binders
 - Sticky-notes
 - Brand new children's jeans, sweat pants, socks and underwear are also needed.
- granola bars***
 - peppermints
 - life savers (sore throats)
 - bandages
 - ace bandages
 - bandaids- all sizes
 - kitchen sponges and ziploc bags (these make reusable ice packs)



HAPPY Birthday FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

06/01 Krista Baumgartner

06/02 Audrey Lucas

06/02 Hailey Sumpter

06/04 Bruce Coyle

06/05 Dotty Mittelstadt

06/07 Frances Lucas

06/10 Robert Floss

06/10 Easton Kremer

06/10 Henry Obersteller

06/11 Corinne Coyle

06/14 Neal Hayden

06/17 Donald Monroe

06/19 Eric Karsten

06/21 Judy Swenson

06/26 Anna Coyle

06/27 Kurt VanDam

Please remember to sign up to donate chancel flowers.
The Flower Chart/Sign Up Sheet is located in the
Narthex

Special dates

- Pentecost,
June 5, 2022
- Trinity Sunday,
June 12, 2022
- Flag Day,
June 14, 2022
- Father's Day,
June 19, 2022
- First day of summer,
June 21, 2022

Bible Quiz

Jesus was known for using a certain type of speech in his teaching. What was it?

- A. soliloquy
- B. parable
- C. lecture
- D. riddle



Answer on Pg. 6

That's Father!

Now I think of all achievements
'tis the least

To perpetuate the species; it is
done

By the insect and the serpent,
and the beast.

But the man who keeps his
body, and his thought,
Worth bestowing on an
offspring love-begot,
Then the highest earthly glory
he has won,

When in pride a grown-up
daughter or a son

Says "That's Father."

—from "Father," by Ella
Wheeler Wilcox

Celebrating the church's birthday

On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.



Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

Church Council Meetings Review :

The church council met on May 19th, 2022 at 6:30. All council members were in attendance, also Aaron Bartholmey was in attendance representing the Call Committee. April council meeting minutes were approved by Corinne and Allison seconded. Aaron Bartholmey, Call Committee representative presented the council with a copy of the "Partnership Agreement" that was drawn up between First Lutheran and the U.C.C. Council. Aaron answered

questions and Council discussed. Allison moved we accept partnership agreement. Eric seconded. Partnership agreement was accepted. Corrine presented Pastor compensation worksheet based on Synod recommendations. Proposal was made regarding the purchase a new computer for the treasurer. Eric moved and Steve seconded the motion carried. Consensus on Altar Committee is to take a different approach and recruit people to prepare communion for each service,

and to clean up after service. It was decided to add communion hymns back during communion part of worship. Treasurer's report was accepted as presented. No changes to calendar review. Next meeting will be June 16, 2022. Devotions will be read by Steve Putz. Motion to close the meeting I was moved by Eric Jordan and was seconded by Kay Hesse.

Submitted by
secretary:
Kay Hesse



Special Congregation Meeting Review :

The congregational meeting was called to order by President Brian Friedman around 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting was to present the congregation on the joint partnership agreement drawn up between U.C.C. partners by the call committee. Aaron Bartholmey read the agreement to the church members present, answered questions, and discussion proceeded. Bruce Coyle made a motion to approve the partnership agreement, Steve Putz seconded.

President Friedman then called for a verbal vote. Based on vocal responses, President Friedman announced that agreement was approved. A member present requested a ballot vote. President Friedman asked members present to find blank paper in front of them and right yay / yes or nay / no and asked the ushers to collect ballots and count the votes. President Friedman announced that 25 members were in favor and 8

members were opposed. Agreement approved. Gary Johnson made a motion to adjourn, and Candy Thompson seconded. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Kay Hesse



The property Committee is looking for someone to help tend to the Rose beds on the south side of the building from the months of June though August. If this is something you could help with please let Stan Kirchhoff or the church office know ASAP.



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Property Meeting 6:30 pm.	2 Dorcas 9:00 AM	3	4
5 Kids church camp Rev. Cal Oraw Worship Service 9:30am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Rev. Cal Oraw Worship Service 9:30am	13	14	15 Lois Cr. 9:30 AM	16 Martha Cr. 1:00 Pm. Council Meeting 6:30 pm	17	18
19 Rev. Cal Oraw Worship Service 9:30am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Pastor Erika Uthe Worship Service 9:30am	27	28	29	30		

Please be praying for all of the Pulpit Supply Pastors that have so graciously been leading worship.
Don't forget to thank them if you have a chance.

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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HOW
CAN WE
pray
FOR
YOU?

Please contact the church office
and let us know.

