



Our Monthly Prayer

We praise you, Jesus Messiah! Keep us faithful as we follow you, even to the cross.. Help us serve others humbly and lovingly, help us to follow your example. Jesus, you meet us today and every day, as you met Mary outside the empty tomb. Thank you for blessing us with your love and acceptance, and as you lead, help us know your voice better each day and eagerly follow you.

Amen

First LUTHERAN

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Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30 am -
12:30 pm



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

Council synopsis, March 16, 2023:

Call committee met with church council with a unanimous recommendation for a pastor. Council accepted the recommendation and discussed next steps in bringing the candidate to the congregation for approval.

Holy Week services: based on members' interest in more congregational meals, we will have meals on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 5:30, followed

by worship, led by Pastor Rachel Mithelman, at 6:30.

In anticipation of a new pastor, the church directory will be updated. This will not be a photo directory. Members will be asked to share address, cell phone numbers and email addresses. Since most individuals now have cell phones and individual email address we will ask if members will share whose phone and email address is being printed. We understand that members may not wish to have their cell phone numbers published. If there is no landline available we will provide a very short statement that numbers have not been shared.

April 2 is an all ages crafting event. We will be making Easter wreaths after church. UCC, Holy Trinity and St. Andrews will be invited to come.

In May council is sponsoring a Choices in Mission to support Lutheran Disaster Relief. This is a response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, the months of storms in California and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Reflection from council

Paraphrased from the book "Thanking God For Your Servant Heart" by Jane L Fryar, page 21.

Jim Collins, a scholar and organizational theorist, reports that when organizations move from good to great and stay there the leadership engages in what he calls level 5 leadership. This involves practicing the humility of self-forgetfulness and focusing on the mission of the organization.

This follows Jesus' lead when he performed the task of washing feet, instead of delegating this to the household slave. This is an example of the self-forgetfulness which focuses on "doing the heavenly Father's will...sharing the heavenly Father's forgiving love."

"Because Christ conquered the power of sin when he died and came back to life, we can exercise, in true humility, true service"

"May the Holy Spirit impress upon our hearts the meaning of Christ's service for us. And me we, in turn, worship him as we humbly serve his people."



A message from Pastor Kari Lee.

"8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.[a] 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

- Romans 5:8-10 (NRSV)

On Easter Sunday Jesus is resurrected.

On Easter Monday Pastors (really all ministers) are resurrected.

Or at least that is how the joke goes.

But it is no joke that resurrection does happen. Not just on the last day when Christ returns to complete His redemption of all creation. But resurrection really happens. All around us. And Jesus Christ rises from the dead on Easter Sunday, whether worship goes as planned or not. Death has forever lost its sting come Easter morning even if you end up skipping the egg hunt or order take out instead of cooking your own meal.

Easter happens regardless of how effective we found our Lenten practices. The stone will be rolled away and we will see an empty tomb no matter how much or little spring cleaning we accomplished. There is nothing you can do to make Easter come faster. Neither can you do anything to prevent its arrival. Like Christ, Resurrection is coming. It has already arrived. And it most certainly will come again. And this unavoidable occurrence of Jesus securing our salvation is as liberating as it is terrifying. No matter how pious we think we have been during Lent there is a little voice that pops up and says "are you sure you did enough?"... "You may not be good enough!"... "Why didn't you try harder to be impressive/holy/righteous?"

I like many of you go back and forth between panicking that I haven't done enough to make this holiday special. I worry that I didn't get the full value out of what I was hoping to cultivate spiritually, personally, and in my community.

Easter comes whether we are ready or not. And here is the good news. It's supposed to be that way. You can never achieve the goal of earning your salvation. So we are never truly ready for it when it comes. As a Lutheran, my community of faith uses Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the Apostles Creed to explain how "sanctification" is obtained on our behalf.

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true."

You can never be ready for Easter. The whole point of Easter is that God's love comes to you and meets you right where you are. The resurrection of Jesus is meant to surprise us when we are in the depth of despair, in the clutches of anger. God's love catches up to us when we are lost to our apathy or have been misled by greed. Resurrection surprises us when we thought we had it all planned perfectly and realize that God still does for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Give yourself some grace as we approach Easter morning. If you were perfect, you wouldn't need a savior. Trust that what you are doing to follow Christ to the cross is enough! Resurrection is coming to gather you up in joy and love. Let the nerves of preparing for Easter Sunday remind you just how important it is to us, then let Jesus be enough cause for celebration. Not the trimmings, not the eggs, not even the special music we have planned. Jesus is always enough. And he proves it by defeating death and securing our salvation before we do anything. May this be the blessing you bless others with.

**1st Lutheran along with U.C.C. will be holding a getting to know
Rev. Kurt Hoover Potluck Saturday April 29th!**

We are looking forward to after 6 long years without a permanent Pastor we have a wonderful candidate, **Reverend Kurt Hoover!**



We hope that you can join us April 29th for the potluck,
and on Sunday morning April 30th for worship.
We will be holding a congregational meeting following service on
Sunday, April 30th.

Please be watching for more information coming soon,
regarding the time and place of the Potluck.

Zinga News!

Zuzu, here we come!

Last month's news from IHP was that a nice parcel of land has been purchased west of Dodoma, and a new clinic will be built there. There are power poles next to the land, and since the neighboring property has a well, the expectation is that there will also be good water.

Dodoma, the legislative capital of Tanzania, is approximately in the geographical center of the country. Zuzu village is just a few miles northwest of the city, about half an hour by car.



You may have heard that there is an outbreak of Marburg virus in far northwest Tanzania, west of Lake Victoria. The good news is that local health authorities in Bukoba appear to have the situation under control, and there has been no spread since the Initial diagnoses.



**Josiah Grimes and Filip Kitundu on the
Outpatient department porch.**

Denny Lofstrom's grandson Josiah Grimes went to Tanzania in March. In addition to trips to Zuzu and Dodoma, he also visited the Children's Hospital at Zinga, where Dr. Jesse Kitundu's son Filip is now the hospital administrator.

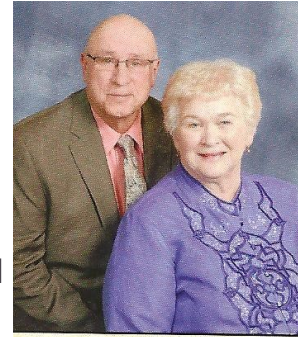


155 Group Celebration—History Committee Interviews for April

Julie & Laird Trusler

Judy Swenson and I drove out to visit Laird and Julie Trusler living in their century farm located in the countryside west of Newton. It is a source of great pride that the land has been in the Trusler family for so many generations.

Laird remembers being with his grandfather on this farm. The landscape of old buildings has been replaced with a new pole barn and the house has a new edition with large open kitchen and family room. Parts of the original house are closed off, and Julie gave a sense that a large farmhouse is happiest filled with a large growing family as it was when they raised their 4 children there.



TRUSLER, Laird & Julie

Julie and Laird met at Iowa state while attending college and married in 1967. They joined First Lutheran shortly after coming to Newton (partly due to a common friendship with Bob floss.)

Julie worked at the Maytag company in research and development department testing products and Laird farmed. Laird's hobby was bowling, and Julie started baking cinnamon rolls to fill her time at home. The rest of history: Laird became a competitive bowler spanning over 50 years, and Julie's rolls became famous at the Maytag company. This led to catering, then a in home-restaurant business, and finally a cookbook of her favorite recipes.

Julie was raised Lutheran and finds comfort in the structure of First Lutheran's service. Julie has taught Sunday School, helped with Bible school, she led a children's choir for 20 years and participated in the youth group during Donn Thompson's time at First Lutheran.

Times at home are simpler now each caring for the other. Activities revolve around adult children's visits and grandchildren's activities. Both Julie and Laird enjoy keeping up with their sports teams. Julie continues her knitting and needle point designs, which includes delightful holiday gnomes, and Laird enjoys the seasonal huge yard work required to maintain a beautiful century farm setting.

Submitted by Connie Zimmermann

Continued on pg. 5

HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Connie Zimmermann 04/08

Stan Kirchhoff 04/09

Judith Monroe 04/09

Lexi Frehse 04/11

Dirk Amundsen 04/13

Carol Ve Verka 04/16

Emily Cantu 04/17

Lynette Birkenholz 04/19

Landon Karsten 04/20

Marilyn Main 04/23

Andrew George 04/27

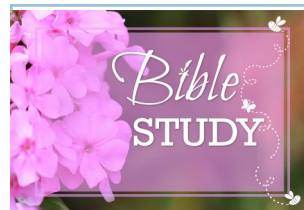
Janelle Karsten 04/30

Jennifer Sumpter 04/30



Faith Formations
Wreath Making

April 2nd following service
10:30 Am.



Reminder:

Bible study every Sunday
morning 8:30A.m.

Candy Thompson

My first memory of Candy Thompson at First Lutheran was when Lee and I and our small children were sitting in the last pew on the East side. A few rows ahead of us on the West side, there was Candy and her parents sitting together.

Candy was born at Skiff Hospital on August 25, 1949. She was raised and lived in Newton all her life and has two sisters who live in southern Iowa.

Her first memory of First Lutheran was in First Grade attending Sunday School. She received her first communion and confirmation at First Lutheran and has been a faithful member all her life.

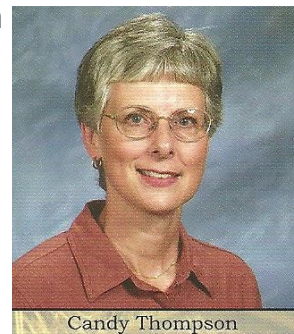
After graduating from Iowa State University she began working in the Research and Development department at the Maytag company. Candy retired from Maytag after 30 years.

When retired, Candy devoted her time to volunteer work at our local hospital, church, and other areas of the community. She served as Treasurer for Council eight times, belongs to Dorcas group, who make blankets that are donated to Lutheran Relief and sent wherever needed, and volunteers in many departments at Skiff Hospital.

In her spare time she loves to sew (which she learned from her mother) and read and do crafts.

Over the years at First Lutheran Candy has met and made many good friends and feels right at home with her church.

Submitted by Kay Hesse



Candy Thompson

Bible Quiz

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes

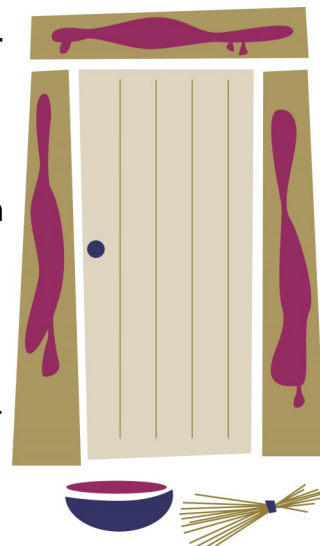


Answer on Pg. 6

Christian symbol

DOORPOSTS —

The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should “pass over” those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.



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

Special dates
Bible study every Sunday morning
8:30 A.M.

Holy Week, April 2-9, 2023

- **Palm Sunday, April 2,**
Service 9:30Am
- **Maundy Thursday, April 6**
5:30Pm Meal, 6:30 Service
- **Good Friday, April 7, 2023**
5:30Pm Meal, 6:30 Service
- **Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**
Service 9:30Am
- **Administrative Professionals Day,**
April 26, 2023

In this the
love of God
was made manifest
among us, that
God sent his
only Son
into the world,
so that we
might live
through him.

1 John 4:9, ESV



Death doesn't win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one

belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens.

His family, out of town at the

time, lost all their possessions. After months of

feeling buried in debris, insurance

paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that

Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."

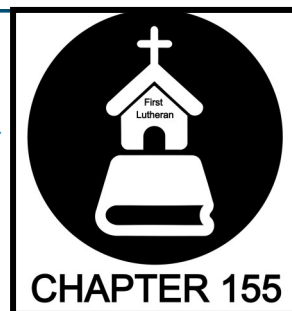


Chapter 155 Moving Forward

What exciting news to hear that we are in the process of making a call for a new pastor!

As we prepare to honor our heritage and begin looking forward, please take time to thank those on the Call Committee who have worked so diligently to find someone for us. We know this has not been an easy project.

Current members are Aaron Bartholmey, Katie Cantu, Gary Johnson, Deb Rose and Mark Monroe.





First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Worship Service Every Sunday at 9:30am

Sunday School

Every Sunday 10:30-11:00am

Pulpit Supply Pastors

Holy Week 4/2-4/9/23—Pastor Rachel Mithelman
4/16/23—Aron Bartholmey
4/23/23—Pastor Mark Mattes
4/30/23—Rev. Kurt Hoover

Getting to know
Rev. Kurt Hoover.

1st Lutheran and UCC will be
holding a joint potluck
April 29th so that we can get
to know our candidate
Rev. Hoover!

Please be watching for up-
dates on time and place.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Faith Formations Easter Wreaths	2 	3	4	5 Dorcas 9:00 Am 	6 	1
9 	10 Chapter 155 Meeting 6:00 Pm	11	12 Lois Cr. 9:30 Am.	13	14	15
16 Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30-11:00	17 N.H.N. Meeting 7:00 Pm	18	19	20 Council Meeting 6:30 Pm	21	22
23 Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30-11:00	24	25	26 	27	28	29 
30 Worship Service 9:30am Congregational Meeting Following service. Sunday School 10:30-11:00						

Bible study every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M.

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA
50208

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services !**

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&
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Newton

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Holy Week Schedule

April 2nd—April 9th, 2023

Palm Sunday: 9:30 A.m.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday :
Meal and fellowship at 5:30 P.m.
with service starting at 6:30 P.m.

Easter Sunday: 9:30 A.m.