



## First LUTHERAN

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

### June 2023 Newsletter

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.  
15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they  
put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same  
way, **let your light shine before others, so that they may see  
your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

My favorite college professor, the one who taught me the power of dialogue to  
get to mutual understanding, has written a pamphlet for all of us.

“Christianity’s PR Problem & What to Do About It” – Mark C. Mattes. It is  
intended to encourage hope and the practice of faith for the times we are living  
in.

His advice is not that we further adapt to the culture and social norms we live  
in, rather we seek to deepen our own practice and faith in God’s plans for  
humanity. In this way become better equipped to point out to those drifting: it  
is God’s work in us producing good purposes and blessings. The starting point  
is to further cultivate our own understanding of how God is at work in all  
things for good. This is an approach to daily life, all that we have, and can be,  
with affirmation of God’s gracious good will for us and all humanity. With  
prayers for those who do not entrust their lives to God: ask and trust the Holy  
Spirit will lead all to embrace God’s gifts.

Mattes acknowledges we cannot convince those without faith, to their  
satisfaction, that God exists and deserves our loyal obedience. Those who  
limit their measure of truth and reality to human reason and personal  
experience. Christian apologetics point to what is beyond explanation by  
reason and experience, the truths of faith communicated to us through  
Scripture. The promises of God found in God’s Word actually do provide a  
framework, in God’s caring for His creation, which satisfactorily accounts for  
all the observations of reason and experience. But without faith in our  
beneficent Creator reason and experience alone leave significant gaps those  
passive toward God ignore or accept in their avoidance of the call of God and  
power of sin.

The difference believers demonstrate with their lives, compassion, values and  
priorities reveal a living in relationship with the Creator of all that is, the Son  
revealed to us in Scripture, through whom we have the forgiveness of sins and  
eternal life. And the Holy Spirit from within our own selves illuminating the  
teachings of Scripture and God’s presence calling, and equipping, us to love  
our neighbors as we know ourselves to be loved in God’s gracious mercy for  
sinners.

All of this to make the point that with God central in our lives we stand on a  
sure foundation, and share in common, a place within the rule and reign of  
God. We should not expect to fit in with society which during our lifetimes  
has increasingly worked to edge God out of the public square and human  
identity. We don’t need to oppose nonbelievers, neither be conformed to their  
coziness with denial; yet for the sake of all hold fast the way, the truth, and the  
light revealed and secured for us through the life, death, and Easter  
resurrection of God’s own Son, the Messiah of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

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This is how Paul describes this paradox in 1 Corinthians 1:18,20-25:

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### Council synopsis, May 18, 2023 :

Council discussed many plans for Pastor Hoover's arrival.

Judy, Connie and Allison will serve on the Joint Council with UCC. This group will meet approximately 4

times a year to assure a smooth partnership.

Judy and Duana will serve as the Mutual Ministry Committee at First Lutheran for Pastor Hoover.

Connie suggested that we offer a meal train.

(This was accepted by the Hoovers and Connie is putting it together.)

Judy reported briefly on the Synod assembly.

Fellowship time was discussed. Council wondered if there are any bakers who would be willing to bake

for Fellowship time- as long as someone else did the serving on Sunday morning? There is also a small

fund to help with Fellowship time, if someone would be interested in doing some shopping for shelf

stable items that can be put aside in the kitchen for a Sunday that no one has signed up for. If either of

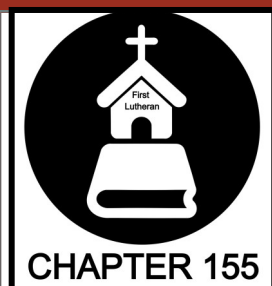
these is something you are interested in helping with, please speak with a member of council.



**Reminder:**

**Bible study every Sunday morning**

**8:30am**



Would you like to be one of three people from First who would join UCC in a welcoming project which would make and deliver a meal to Pastor Kurt and Barb on June 11, 18 and 24 at 4:00Pm? If so please email this week to Connie Lucas at [connierlucas@gmail.com](mailto:connierlucas@gmail.com) or call at 641-521-0172.

## Zuzu News!

The groundwork for the Zuzu hospital project is coming along nicely, with all eyes on the goal. The necessary paperwork is getting done, and plans are made for construction to follow. Last month, the 26 acres were fenced in, clearly defining the boundaries.



**197 fenceposts anchored in ce-**

While Dr. Bonaventura “Bon” Mazezele is getting his official ultrasonography certification and Nurse Miriam Mugo is completing her Master’s degree, project manager Selemani “Sele” Shabani is working on the layout of the new hospital, assisted by medical personnel with experience in the various areas. For example, pediatric physical therapist Dawn Wakefield is advising (online) on the physical therapy design.

Agua Viva International of Overland Park, Kansas, which provided the water treatment plant at Zinga, has agreed to install one system for IHP’s Zuzu hospital project for free. IHP just received a \$10,000 grant to improve healthcare in Tanzania, and another grant application is in the works. For more on Zuzu, please go to <https://www.ihptz.org/> and click on IHP Monthly Update.

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## Ragbrai and Our Bishop.. Oh My!!

Judy and I had the privilege of attending the SE Iowa Synod Assembly on May 15 and 16. We will bring exciting news forward all summer long, but don’t want to detract from welcoming Pastor Hoover in this newsletter, except to say the following:

The three Iowa Bishops are riding Ragbrai this summer to raise money for Lutheran World Hunger.

As we are all aware- Ragbrai is riding through Newton this summer. This is an exciting opportunity to support the Bishops and Lutheran World Hunger.

What shall we do?? We have not formulated any ideas. Please share your thoughts with us!!

Mark and Judy Monroe



## 155 Group Celebration—History Committee Interviews for June

This month's interviews for 155 History are younger couples that were married here at First Lutheran and continue an active membership.

Doing interviews is a little more difficult now that Marv and I are traveling for the summer. Allison and Aaron and Don and Rachel were kind enough to submit their stories to me.

### **Donald & Rachel Monroe**

Our first couple is Rachel and Don Monroe. They met at Carthage College in a fencing club. They shared the same college friends and spent lots of time around each other. They officially started dating at the end of their sophomore year.



Don and Rachel were married at First Lutheran Oct 5, 2013. Rachel was born in Newton and baptized by Pastor Cedarholm and is a lifelong member of First Lutheran. Rachel spent a lot of time with the youth pastor growing up in the church. She went through confirmation and Robyn Friedman was her mentor. (I personally remember Rachel and the Monroe family doing instrumental selections on Christmas Eve.) Rachel played her cello during services with Colette Hill and Allison Bartholmey. Don and Rachel were married by Pastor Bey and enjoyed premarital counseling with him. Don joined after college and has been a member for 10 years. Both Don and Rachel have helped with Vacation Bible School over the years. Currently Rachel is leading crafts for all ages during fellowship time once a month. This helps fill the gap without Sunday School and builds relationships within different age groups.

Currently Don is working for Wells Fargo. Rachel is working at Painting with a Twist, as well as selling her own oil paintings. They love spending time with their giant dog and going for walks.

*Submitted by Don and Rachel Monroe and Connie Zimmermann*

*Continued on pg. 5*



Audrey Lucas 06/02

Hailey Sumpter 06/02

Bruce Coyle 06/04

Dotty Mittelstadt 06/05

Frances Lucas 06/07

Robert Floss 06/10

Easton Kremer 06/10 |

Henry Obersteller 06/10

Corinne Coyle 06/11

Neal Hayden 06/14

Donald Monroe 06/17

Eric Karsten 06/19

Judy Swenson 06/21

Anna Coyle 06/26

Kurt VanDam 06/27

**Special dates**  
**Trinity Sunday,**

**June 4, 2023**

**Flag Day,**

**June 14, 2023**

**Father's Day,**

**June 18, 2023**

**Juneteenth,**

**June 19, 2023**

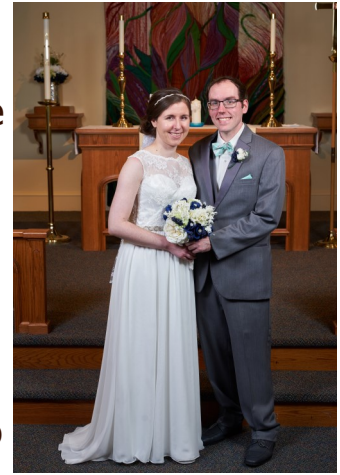
**First day of summer,**

**June 21, 2023**



## **Aaron & Allison Bartholmey**

"We met when we were both attending Wartburg College, sometime around 2007. We were both active in campus ministry, especially a group called Faith Alive that hosted lock-ins for youth at area churches. Aaron graduated first and moved to southwest Iowa for a teaching job in Clarinda. Allison found a job at Orient-Macksburg when she graduated the next year. After another year, Aaron took a teaching job in Colfax and moved away again. Luck and a little divine intervention brought Allison to Colfax 5 years later when a teaching position opened there. We were married in 2019 at First Lutheran.



Allison is now teaching TAG and elementary music in Baxter, while Aaron is working at the DOT Information Center in Ankeny.

Aaron spends much of his free time antiquing, going to flea markets, and estate sales and selling a little on the side. He stays busy being involved as a member on a few too many boards, including the American Pencil Collectors Society and the Colfax Historical Society. Allison teaches piano, writes poems, and works in her garden.

Aaron joined First Lutheran Church in 2011; Allison, a former Methodist, joined First Lutheran in 2016. If you look up in the balcony some Sundays, you will see Allison playing the piano. Sometimes she does Children Time as part of Faith Formations, and she is also council vice president. Aaron rotates reading scriptures and running slides, and he just finished a lengthy term as head of the call committee."

*Submitted by Allison and Aaron Bartholmey and Connie Zimmemann*

### **Christian symbol**

**EYE OF GOD** — This symbol represents our "all-seeing" God, who is present everywhere and is always watching over us. ("The eyes of the Lord are in every place," Proverbs 15:3, NRSV.) The eye is inside an equilateral triangle, which is associated with the Holy Trinity.



"Thanks so much, Aaron.  
A real vote of confidence."



*The next  
meeting will be  
June 7th, 2023  
6:30 Pm.*



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



## *Job Description for Pastor and Congregation*

In my years here at First Lutheran I have never been aware of a job description for our pastor. There actually is one, and a job description for the congregation!

As we welcome Pastor Hoover into our ministry, Council wants all of us to be aware of both of these expectations. These are listed in our call documents, and were developed from our Mission Site Profile used during the call process, and shared with potential candidates, including Pastor Hoover.

Those details are quoted below:

Special emphases of the pastor and specific encouragement by the congregation.

The pastor will give special attention in ministry to the following:

Lead outreach to the community to grow community presence and the congregation.

Assist in finding and developing layperson leaders within our congregation

Instill vitality and variety to create enthusiasm in worship

Develop youth and family educational opportunities.

The congregation will encourage the pastor's ministry in the following ways:

Be available as community resources

The council will guide the pastor through recent and past history of the congregation

A mutual ministry group at First will act as a confidential resource for the pastor.

Fellowship events will be hosted within the congregation and for the general public.

Ongoing emphasis will be placed on open and honest communication, compassion, and mutual respect.

The letter of call from us, which is provided by the Synod has the following language:

- ...to preach and teach
- ...to administer Baptism and Communion
- ...to lead us in worship
- ...to proclaim the forgiveness of sin
- ...to provide pastoral care
- ...to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed
- ...to encourage persons to prepare for the ministry
- ...to equip us for witness and service
- ...and guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed.

As I read through those statements, I see a lot of action on the part of the congregation.

This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation, and our position in our community. We are indeed called to service as we call a new pastor. Pastor Hoover is our leader and cheerleader as we move forward in our 155th year in Newton.

Let's use this opportunity to remember why the founding members felt it was important to start a Lutheran church in Newton, Iowa. And move forward to assure that First Lutheran is around long after we are all gone.

Judy Monroe  
Council President



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Pastor Kurt Hoover  
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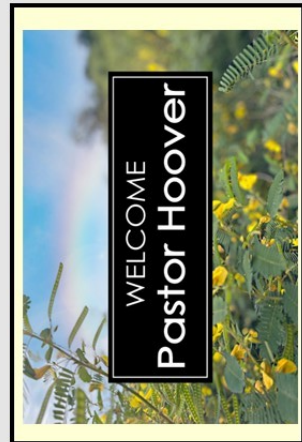
Office Hours  
Monday—Friday  
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Meetings with Pastor Hoover by Appointment.

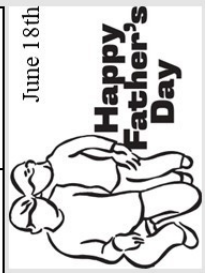
Worship Service Every Sunday at 9:30am

Sunday School

Every Sunday 10:30-11:00am



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Dorcas 9:00 Am	2	3
Worship Service 4 9:30am Sunday School 10:30-11:00	5	6	7 Property Meeting 6:30 pm.	8	9	10
Worship Service 11 9:30am Sunday School 10:30-11:00	12	13	14	15 Council Meeting 6:30 Pm	16 Church Reserved	17 Church Reserved
Worship Service 18 9:30am Sunday School 10:30-11:00	19	20	21 Lois Cr. 9:30 Am.	22	23	24
Worship Service 25 9:30am Sunday School 10:30-11:00	26	27	28	29	30	



June 18th

Bible study!!  
Every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M.

309 EAST THIRD STREET NORTH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
50208

FIRST  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Watch Past and Live  
services !**

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