



New Era Lutheran Church

March 2018



New Era Lutheran Church
3455 New Era Road
Muscatine, IA 52761

Services:

10:30 am

Sunday School:

September -May ~ 9:30 am

Contacts:

Office: 563-263-5356

Pastor Nate: 563-320-3995

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Building Rental – Gloria Batteau

Church, Fellowship Hall, Gym

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Items due by Wednesday night

Newsletter – Becki Petersen

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Items due by the 20th of the month

Check us out at

www.neweralutheran.com

<https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheran>

An Excerpt from the Word in Season

January, February, March 2018

Sunday, March 4, 2018

John 2:13-22

Zeal for your house will consume me.. (vs 17)

When religion becomes too casual and too much like commerce, there's a problem. When we think we can give anything to God in exchange for blessings, there's a problem. Blessing is a gift, not a commodity.

Temple worship in Jerusalem had become both rote and commercial, and Jesus expressed anger and took action. The temple took 46 years to build, and he claimed that he could tear it down and rebuild it in three days. No wonder the leaders were confused and angry!

But the most radical part of the story is that Jesus was really saying that he now was God's residence. He graphically announced that God didn't live in the temple, but had taken up a new residence. Even more startling for us, Jesus promised that he would come and reside with us, in the form of the Holy Spirit.

So now we are the temple, the house that has to be guarded from lesser purposes. Our bodies are a temple for the Holy Spirit. What a concept! But that's what we are promised. What does it mean for us to treat ourselves as a holy dwelling? At the very least it means that self-care is about more than ourselves.

Indwelling Spirit, help e tend the small flame of you that is living within me with the utmost care. Amen.

Psalm 19; Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

~ Written by Carolyn Coon Mowchan, an ELCA pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Duluth, Minnesota and an author.

*Pick up your copy of The Word in Season on the small table in the hallway next to the pastor's office.



Congratulations to Lindsay Leacox and Joe Squires on their recent engagement. They are planning a spring wedding. Lindsay is the daughter of Eric and Lynne Leacox.

Upcoming Events

Lenten Services

We have entered the Lenten season and Lenten services have begun. We will alternate Wednesday night services with Gloria Dei according to the following schedule:

- Wed. Feb. 28 – Gloria Dei, services at 7:00 pm
- Wed. Mar. 7 – New Era, soup supper at 6:00 pm, services at 7:00 pm
- Wed. Mar. 14 - Gloria Dei, services at 7:00 pm
- Wed. Mar. 21 - New Era, soup supper at 6:00 pm, services at 7:00 pm

Coupon Group

The coupon group will go to Prairie Grill, 100 W. 76th St., Davenport, on Wednesday, March 7. Meet at the church at 5:00 pm.

Charity Sewing

Charity sewing is Tues., March 13, beginning at 9 am. **Everyone is welcome!** No sewing experience necessary. Bring a sack lunch. If you know of a need for a lap robe, see Lynn Bendt.

Care and Concern

Care & Concern will meet at McDonalds on Wednesday, March 14, at 9:00 am.

A Note from Pastor Shelley

This has been a very difficult time for me. My oldest sister had a stroke on Jan 14 and died on Feb 9 one day after her birthday. Additionally my brother's mother-in-law died on Feb 4 and they asked me to officiate for her funeral. So we have been going to Milwaukee a lot. Gaylor is doing better. He had the flu and was hospitalized. So it has been a tough winter. I'll be glad when spring comes. I'm still serving a church part-time as interim pastor.

This was my oldest sister. She and her husband were at my retirement event. They lived in Michigan but had come down to Milwaukee to spend the winter with my niece for the first time since they moved to Michigan in 1990.
~ Shelley

Spring Forward – Daylight Savings Time Begins March 11

Daylight Savings begins on March 11. Don't forget to turn your clock ahead one hour Saturday night.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

7 Skeeter Dugan
9 Gary Ruser
12 Steven Batteau
13 Eric Holliday
17 Joan Dietrich
18 Bev Dugan
Kris Gladwell
31 Marlin Allchin

Anniversaries

7 Josiah & Stephanie Anderson
11 Jim & Lynn Bendt
17 Chad & Renee Johnson
20 Skeeter & Bev Dugan

Church Council Minutes

The council did not meet in February. The next meeting will be on March 13.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bendt Secretary, 2018



Chaos to Comfort

(Excerpt from *The Lutheran Message*)

We were playing softball on a spring day when an ominous looking cloud moved into our area. As it kept getting darker, we all headed for shelter. The sky had an eerie yellow look to it; yet rain did not come. There was a strange silence; no sounds came from the birds. Eventually the clouds moved on. In a very short time, we were stunned to hear the weather front had spawned a tornado that swept through a small town just four miles to the north of ours. We learned later that 13 of the 125 residents were killed, and the town was utterly destroyed.

Many people in our town had loved ones – friends and relatives – in the neighboring town and were devastated by the terrible chaos caused by the storm. This caused us to ponder why were spared while our sister town was annihilated. Some folks were angry with God, asking how he could allow this tragedy in a world He loves so much.

However, in the midst of the pain and suffering, cooler heads – faithful members of our churches – began quietly and effectively ministering to those who were hurting and in need. There were those who opened up their homes to those left homeless, others busily provided food and clothing to those left with nothing but the clothes on their back. Still others were involved in comforting the highly distressed, some who seemed to be inconsolable until faithful Christians provided a shoulder to lean on or to cry on. The comforter would stay with the grieving until they could control their emotions and would sometimes pray with them when they parted.

As a young person I had never been around this kind of tragedy. It was a significant discovery to me that one's presence on behalf of a grieving person might mean more than anything we might say. God has blessed us with the privilege of ministering as a comforter to the grieving, just as Paul the Apostle proclaimed; "Blessed be the God and Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Yes, there was great tragedy, but there were many testimonies of rescue and good works and some amazing stories about how some had been spared. God's peace and comfort were truly present in the life of the people of these two towns.

~ Walter Maris writes from Savannah, Missouri

(For more good stories, *The Lutheran Message* can be picked up on the table in the hall outside the pastor's office).

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Feb. 28 Lenten Services at Gloria Dei, 7 pm	1	2	3
4 Sunday School - 9:30 am Worship – 10:30 am	5 6:30 pm – Bible Study at Gloria Dei	6	7 Lenten Services at New Era. supper at 6 pm, services at 7 pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday School - 9:30 am Worship – 10:30 am Daylight Savings time begins. Turn your clock ahead one hour.	12 6:30 pm – Bible Study at Gloria Dei	13 9 am – 2 pm, Charity Sewing, Fellowship Hall - Church Council, evening	14 Lenten Services at Gloria Dei, 7 pm	15	16	17
18 Sunday School - 9:30 am Worship – 10:30 am Chicago Folk Service	19 6:30 pm – Bible Study at Gloria Dei	20	21 Lenten Services at New Era. supper at 6 pm, services at 7 pm	22	23	24
25 - Palm Sunday Sunday School - 9:30 am Worship – 10:30 am	26 6:30 pm – Bible Study at Gloria Dei	27	28	April 1 Maundy Thursday	April 2 Good Friday	

Date	Reader	Flowers	Ushers	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Treats
March 4	Becki Petersen		Ken & Shirley McDaniel	Lynne Leacox	Dick & Carolyn Leach	Grant Probasco Baptism Lunch
March 11	Lynne Leacox					Becki Petersen Gloria Batteau
March 18	Dianna Burger					Carolyn Leach Shirley McDaniel
March 25	Paul Mayes					Ann Mayes Shirley Petersen