



New Era Lutheran Church

March 2020 Newsletter

Pastor John Grebner
Interim Pastor
563-210-7197

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

Sunday School: Sept.-May - 9:30 am
Worship Services: 10:30 am

Contacts:

Joan Dietrich, Office Admin
Office: 563-263-5356
Office Hours: Wed – 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Fri – 10 a.m. - Noon
Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com

Organist: Mary Maxson
Choir Director: Lavonne Schrum

Building Rental –
Gloria Batteau

Church, Fellowship Hall, Gym
Home: 563-263-2969
Email: gfbatteau@gmail.com

Bulletin & Newsletter– Joan Dietrich

Cell: 563-299-4710
Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com
Bulletin - Items due by Thursday night
each week
Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
month

Check us out at www.neweralutheran.com
or <https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheran>



We have now entered the season of Lent, the springtime of the soul. Lent is a season for intentional action. For some this action may take the form of fasting. For others this action will

be taking up something new, things like daily prayer, reading of scripture, small acts of kindness. I hope each of you will join us for our Wednesday evening worship services. (See the schedule enclosed elsewhere for information about where we are meeting, New Era or Gloria Dei.)

I invite you to join me in taking up a particular practice this lent, praying a prayer from the Russian Orthodox tradition. I came across this prayer many years ago and have found it to be particularly meaningful. I hope you will prayer this prayer each day, perhaps starting or ending your day with it. The prayer will serve as the center piece for our midweek thoughts and reflections.

Please join me in praying the Prayer of the Optina Elders:

Grant to me, O Lord, that with peace of mind I may face all that this new day is to bring.

Grant me grace to surrender myself completely to Your holy will.

In every hour of the day reveal Your will to me.

Bless my dealings with all who surround me.

Whatever news comes to me this day, teach me to accept it with peace of soul, and the firm conviction that your will governs all.

In all my words and actions, direct my thoughts and feelings.

When the unexpected happens let me not forget your love or that you are in control. Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely with others, neither confusing nor grieving anyone. Give me strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day and all it shall bring. Direct my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive, and to love. Amen

Your partner in ministry,
Pastor John



Birthdays

- 3 – Mary McCleary
- 7 – Skeeter Dugan
- 9 – Gary Ruser
- 12 – Steven Batteau
- 17 – Joan Dietrich
- 18 – Bev Dugan
- 18 – Kris Gladwell
- 21 – Brad Cole
- 31 – Marlin Allchin

Anniversaries

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

As you celebrate your day with pride, think about the God and his choicest blessings on you. Have a wonderful birthday and anniversary!

Special dates

- First Sunday in Lent, *March 1, 2020*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2020*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 8, 2020*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 8, 2020*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 15, 2020*
- St. Patrick’s Day, *March 17, 2020*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2020*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 22, 2020*
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 29, 2020*

*Dear church family,
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, food and support during my mom’s hospitalization and passing. We felt very covered.*



Love, Lynne and Eric

March 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter
Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Workers Month

March is National Professional Social Workers Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we’re grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

Maybe you’ve never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you’ve had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life’s most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn’t be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Caring for Christopher. When Christopher struggled with crippling anxiety at a young age, his mom, Cheyenne, didn't know where to turn. Even going on a simple trip to the grocery store was almost impossible. She knew something needed to change.

That change came in the form of LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services. Each week, Christopher's BHIS worker, Jose, visited the family in their home or met with them at the local library. He brought activities to engage Christopher and help him develop the coping skills he needed to feel better when he left the house. And at the same time, he provided words of encouragement and helpful parenting tips Cheyenne could use to help her child.

Christopher recently celebrated his seventh birthday, and his confidence continues to grow. He feels more comfortable going out in public. He has graduated out of LSI services, and he recently made a new friend all on his own.

Cheyenne feels confident that even on the tough days, she has the knowledge she needs to help her child thrive, thanks to Jose.

"LSI gave us the tools we needed to help him succeed, and the reassurance that we were doing the right thing, even when it was hard," she says.

broken leg in a fall one month ago. Jared is working primarily out of town, away from his family. Their children are 1½ and 3 years old, with the latter suffering from an ongoing heart condition. For more information, contact Carol Stalkfleet at 563-263-2266. There is also a GoFundMe page on Facebook. Web address is <https://gf.me/u/xkyiqv>.

New Era Church Directory

The New Era Church Directory is in the process of being revised. A rough draft of the revised directory will be distributed during the month of March during worship and fellowship. Please review this directory to make sure names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and children living at home are correct. Please make the corrections on this rough draft copy. Also in the final directory, a picture of your family is going to be included by your name. Picture should include individuals that are listed in the directory only. Please submit a family picture to be included in the directory. You can send picture via email to neweralutheran@gmail.com or provide a picture to Joan Dietrich. If you would rather have a new picture, an amateur photograph will be taking pictures at church on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 10:00 am to Noon. Please contact Joan (563-299-4710) if you would like to have a new picture taken for the directory. Would like to have everything corrected and pictures submitted by April 22 to have the directory printed and distributed by April 30, 2020.



Please keep in our thoughts and prayers Jared and Kelly Stalkfleet and their two children. Jared is Leroy

and Carol Stalkfleet's grandson. Jared and Kelly's home in Stevensville, MT caught fire around midnight on Feb. 14. The home is a complete loss along with all their belongings, memories, and heirlooms. Kelly and Jared, along with their two young children, are all safe. In addition to losing everything, Kelly is struggling with limited mobility after suffering a



Paddling through Lent — and life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

—adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*

Of rocks and repentance

Before recently closing to tourists, Australia's majestic Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) was popular with climbers. Many took home illegal souvenirs, sometimes later mailing them back to park rangers after experiencing what they considered bad luck.

So many pilfered mementos were returned, often with notes of apology, that rangers called them "sorry rocks." The returns merely created more work for park staff, who urged visitors not to take specimens in the first place.

"Sorry rocks" is a fitting image for our sins, which the Bible describes as weights and entanglements (see Hebrews 12:1). As sinners, we can't remove those heavy burdens on our own. But through Christ's redeeming work on our

behalf, we can "return" the rocks of wrongdoing. When we repent and seek forgiveness, God promises to "remember [our] sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).



God's wonders

People travel to wonder at the height of the mountains, at the huge waves of the seas, at the long course of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and yet they pass by themselves without wondering. —St. Augustine

Prayer around the world

Travel writer Rick Steves, who's a Christian, believes travel can help us see God. He writes of gaining new insights into prayer from a so-called "whirling dervish" (a sort of Muslim monk) in Turkey. Before demonstrating how he prays, the man explained to Steves: "When we pray, we keep one foot in our community, anchored in our home. The other footsteps around and around, acknowledging the beautiful variety of God's creation ... touching all corners of this great world. I raise one hand up to acknowledge the love of God, and the other hand goes down like the spout of a teapot. As I spin around, my hand above receives the love from our Creator, and my hand below showers it onto all of his creation."

Most of us probably won't add whirling to our prayer practices! And we likely already pray for people near and far. But what if we pictured ourselves both anchored at home and stepping out among God's whole creation? What if we imagined God's love pouring into us, then out of us onto all the world? How might such an approach to prayer influence how we live?

A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning “March”) and *lencten* (meaning “spring”).

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and “the Lenten fast” to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus’ time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren’t counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they’re considered “mini-Easters.”

Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.—John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*

Close at heart

No distant Lord have I, loving afar to be;
Made flesh for me, he cannot rest until he rests
in me.

Brother in joy and pain, bone of my bone was he;
More intimate and closer still — he dwells himself
in me.

I need not journey far, this dearest Friend to see;
Companionship is always mine; he makes his
home with me.—Maltbie Babcock

Joy seekers

In northern Minnesota several years ago, some women formed a “joy circle.” They settled into a routine of meeting every couple of weeks to share joys they’ve noticed. Their aim, amid our troubled world and chaotic lives, is to deliberately focus on the positive. The women don’t simply hope to stumble upon good news among the outrage, bitterness and tragedy surrounding us; they actively seek out joy and report it to the group.

Joy is a fruit of the spirit named in Galatians 5:22-23. As Christians, we don’t ignore or dismiss life’s struggles and sorrows, and neither do joy-circle participants. But God promises that life is stronger than death, and Jesus’ resurrection is proof. With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can make a spiritual discipline of seeking and sharing joy — and thanking God for it. (Visit joycircles.network online to learn more.)—Heidi Mann

“All Beautiful the March of Days”

All beautiful the march of days,
as seasons come and go;
the Hand that shaped the rose hath wrought
the crystal of the snow;
hath sent the hoary frost of heav’n,
the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent loveliness
on hill and wood and field. ...

O Thou from whose unfathomed law
the year in beauty flows,
Thyself the vision passing by
in crystal and in rose,
day unto day doth utter speech,
and night to night proclaim,
in ever changing words of light,
the wonder of Thy Name.
—Frances W. Wile



Bible Quiz

Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
 - B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
 - C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
 - D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."
- Answer: D (See John 3:1-16.)

Ancient guidance on prayer

When we pray, we are not to pray for ourselves alone. We do not say, "My Father, who art in heaven" or, "Give me this day my daily bread"; we do not ask for our own trespasses alone to be forgiven; and when we pray that we may be delivered from evil, we are not praying only for ourselves either.

Our prayer is for the general good, for the common good. When we pray, we do not pray for our own single selves; we pray for all God's people, because they and we are one.

—Cyprian, bishop of Carthage (third century)



**+Christian
Symbol+**
IHS

This sacred monogram originally appeared as "IHC," the first three letters of "IHCOYC," the Greek word for Jesus. Over time the Greek "C" was replaced by the Latin "S" to become "IHS." There are many interpretations given to the letters "IHS," including the Latin "Iesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Men) and the English "I (Christ) Have Suffered."



Recipe Corner

Easy Cheesy Corn Casserole

- 1 (15.5 oz) can of whole kernel corn, undrained
- 1 (15 oz) creamed style corn
- 1 C cubed processed cheese (such as Velveeta)
- 1 C uncooked macaroni
- ½ C unsalted butter, cut in small pieces

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Stir whole kernel corn, cream style corn, cheese macaroni, and butter in 9" x 13" nonstick baking dish
3. Bake in preheated oven, stirring every 10-15 minutes until mixture is thick and smooth, about 1 hour.



**MUSCATINE COUNTY HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY**

ANNUAL SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

**MARCH 22, 2020
11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
400 IOWA AVENUE
MUSCATINE**

**VARIETY OF SOUPS (AT LEAST 4),
SANDWICHES, RELISHES, COOKIES
AND DRINK**

**\$5.00 FOR ADULTS \$3.00 KIDS 10 AND
UNDER**

**SPONSORED BY THE HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY BOARD
AND AREA CHURCHES**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT JUDY
BROTHERTON AT
563-264-5372 OR judyb@machlink.com.**

SEE YOU ON THE 22ND!!

Craft Idea

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

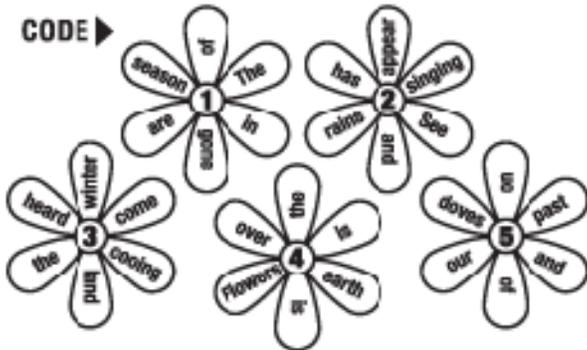
Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.

Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.

CODE ▶



_____ ! _____ ;

 _____ ;

 _____ ;

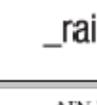
SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

Answer: See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooling of doves is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV

MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.

	A type of horn	_____ □	MURTETP
	Played by King David	□ _____	PRHA
	Plucked to make sound	_____ □ _____	IGSNSTR
	Similar to a tambourine	_____ □ _____	MRBELIT
	A type of harp	_____ □	ELRY
	Blown through to make sound	_____ □ _____	EPPI
	A percussion instrument	_____ □ _____	YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
 _raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, gymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship	2  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	3 5 pm – Coupon Group to Meet @ church to go to The Filling Station, 305 E 35 th , Davenport	4 Lent Services @ New Era 5:30 pm – Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Worship	5	6	7
8 8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 	9  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	10 9 am – Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.	11 9 am – Care & Concern - Meet @ McDonald's 7 pm – Lent Services @ Gloria Dei	12	13	14
15 8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship	16  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	17 	18 Lent Services @ New Era 5:30 pm – Soup Supper 7:00 pm – Worship	19	20 	21 10:00 am-Noon - Photo Sessions @ New Era
22 8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Muscatine County Habitat for Humanity Annual Soup & Sandwich Supper	23  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	24	25 7 pm – Lent Services @ Gloria Dei	26	27 	28
29 8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship	30  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	31				

Date	Readers	Flowers	Ushers	Altar Guild	Communication Assistant	Treats
Mar 1	Shirley Petersen	No flowers	Dan & Shirley Petersen	Shirley Petersen	Dan & Shirley Petersen	Carolyn Leach, Lynn Bendt Play tasting luncheon
Mar 8	Lynne Leacox	No flowers				Janet Kindler, Lynne Leacox
Mar 15	Paul Mayes	No flowers				Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
Mar 22	Joyce Rudbeck	No flowers				Janie Swails
Mar 29	Dan Petersen	No flowers				Ann Mayes, Shirley McDaniel

Lenten Soup Suppers

March 4

<i>Soup</i>	<i>Shirley McDaniel, Gloria Batteau</i>
<i>Sandwiches</i>	<i>Joan Dietrich (2)</i>
<i>Dessert</i>	<i>Nancy Henke, Becki Petersen</i>
<i>Beverages (milk, tea, coffee)</i>	<i>Shirley McDaniel – tea/coffee</i>

March 18

<i>Soup</i>	<i>Carolyn Leach, Becki Petersen</i>
<i>Sandwiches</i>	<i>Vicki Hampton, Bev Hull</i>
<i>Dessert</i>	<i>Vicki Hampton, Ann Mayes</i>
<i>Beverages (milk, tea, coffee)</i>	<i>Mary Maxson, Ann Mayes</i>

March 18

<i>Soup</i>	<i>Bev Hull, Janet Kindler</i>
<i>Sandwiches</i>	<i>Joyce Rudbeck, Lynne Leacox</i>
<i>Dessert</i>	<i>Carolyn Leach, Lynn Bendt</i>
<i>Beverages (milk, tea, coffee)</i>	

NOTE: Please email any information for the newsletter to Joan Dietrich at neweralutheran@gmail.com or call 563-299-4710 or leave it in the basket outside office.

Church office hours: Wed., - 10-2 pm, Fri., 10-Noon – 563-263-5356

Council President – Josiah Andersen
Council Vice President – Ann Mayes
Council Secretary – Shirley Petersen
Council Property – Dick Leach
Treasurer – Eric Leacox

Choir Director – LaVonne Schrum
Organist – Mary Maxson
Sunday School Supt. – Lynne Leacox
Asst. Sunday School Supt. – Ann Mayes