



# New Era Lutheran Church

## July 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](mailto:neweralutheran@gmail.com)

**Organist: Mary Maxson**  
**Choir Director: Lavonne Schrum**

**Building Rental –**  
**Gloria Batteau**

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Home: 563-263-2969  
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**Bulletin & Newsletter– Joan Dietrich**

Cell: 563-299-4710  
Email: [neweralutheran@gmail.com](mailto:neweralutheran@gmail.com)  
Bulletin - Items due by Thursday night  
Each week  
Newsletter Items due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the  
Month

**Check us out at** [www.neweralutheran.com](http://www.neweralutheran.com)  
or <https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheran>



Congratulations! You are on the cusp of a new ministry and a new life. I am thrilled for the possibilities for you as Pastor Kirsten comes to partner with you in ministry. Your future is bright as you shine the gospel of Jesus Christ into the Durant/rural Muscatine region. Know that you will be in my prayers.

Thank you for the ministry that we have shared. You have been supportive and open to change which is so beneficial to the life of the whole congregation. Covid-19 certainly complicated our life together. And it will continue to complicate your life as a congregation. But you have taken it well in stride, adapting as needed.

I will be with you for a brief time now. Sunday, July 12, will be my last day with you. After which I will be taking a three week vacation before, hopefully, beginning in a new setting. It has, again, been a blessing to be with you.

July 13 it will be time for a new pastor. Let me offer these two words of advice as Pastor Lee comes to join you.

First, get to know her and help her get to know you. Introduce yourself. In this time of social distancing this may not be as easy, but do it. And especially do it outside of “normal” church gathering times like worship. Stop by the church when she is here and have a conversation. Invite Pastor Kirsten to a socially distanced lunch or coffee. Let her know you, your hopes, your fears, your loves. And listen to her. Ask her about what matters to her.

Second, show up. Your congregation needs you and you need them. Come, be in worship (unless you are at high-risk). More importantly, engage in worship. Listen, ponder, respond. And offer yourself to be more engaged in the work of the congregation. Give yourself to doing together God's work. When asked give your honest thoughts and feelings. When change is suggested, give it a chance. Invest yourself in your faith and in these wonderful communities of faith called together by God named New Era and Gloria Dei Lutheran Churches

If you do these two things I promise you your life will be enriched and your congregation will be spirit-filled and enlivened.

Again, thank you. Thank you for this partnership we have shared.

Pastor John



**Birthdays**

- 1 – Claysha O’Neill
- 2 – Chad Johnson
- 5 – Betty McMahon
- 8 – Carissa Johnson
- 10 – Haley Batteau
- 12 – Chris Markham
- 12 – Nikki Kurz
- 15 – Olivia Sturgeon
- 17 – Shirley Allchin
- 20 – Jackelyn Batteau
- 23 – Vi Levetzow
- 24 – Jerry Geoghegan
- 26 – Kari Thoren
- 28 – Vicki Hampton

**Anniversaries**

- 7 – Justin & Erika Wulf
- 15 – Terry & Vicki Hampton
- 18 – Rob & Dianna Burger

*May God give you a long healthy and self satisfying life. May all your unfulfilled desires come true in your journey. Wishing you a blessed Birthday and Anniversary!*



I would like to thank everyone for the prayers for Mark Neal's recovery. He is doing well. Phyllis Beck

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Thank you for all the prayers and cards Jim has received during this past several months. It has really made his day when he gets a card or phone call. Keep up the good work New Era.

Thanks Jim & Lynn

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Dear church family,  
 Thank you all so much for the cards and memorials for my dad. I was drawn to this church because it reminded me so much of the one I grew up in. Surrounded by beautiful Iowa farmland, surrounded by people who truly care about you.  
 God bless you. Love, Lynne and Eric



Emogene Sorgenfrey -  
 c/o Leland Smith Assisted Living  
 309 Ovesen Dr., Room 104, Wilton IA 52778  
 563-726-5407 (keep trying if no answer)

Catherine Dittmer, Tom Kindler, Steve Batteau, Mike Hermann, Jim Bendt, Rosie Dietrich, Chad Morgan, Butch Batteau, Jared & Kelly Stalkfleet, Leroy Stalkfleet, Chris McCleary, Ayla McCleary, and The Sturgeon Family, and all others who are in need of prayer support.

Sincere condolences to the family of Bruce Coop, Lynne Leacox's father, who passed away Friday, June 5, 2020

## Special dates

- Canada Day, July 1, 2020
- U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2020



### New Era Lutheran Church

**Directory** - Don't forget to send us your pictures for the church directory! Send to New Era

Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine IA 52761 or scan and email to [neweralutheran@gmail.com](mailto:neweralutheran@gmail.com). The pictures will be scanned into the computer and inserted into the directory. Photos will not be destroyed but will be given back to you. So far we have three pictures!

### New Era Lutheran Church

#### Special Council Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2020

A special church council meeting was held on June 3, 2020, at 6 pm with Pastor John Grebner, Dick, Ann, Gloria, Janice, Eric, and Shirley attending.

Our discussion was about when to start worship services as Gloria Dei will start June 21 with their congregational meeting on June 28. It was decided we would start on the same date as Gloria Dei and have our services outside.

The congregation will park on the east side of the gym in two rows of cars and people can stay in their cars or bring their own lawn chairs and sit by their cars being sure to socially distance themselves.

In case of rainy weather, depending on the number of people here, we can either meet in the church or fellowship hall. There will be no

sharing of the peace or communion and masks should be worn. A basket or container will be out for offering to be given before or after the service.

Pastor John will prepare a letter to be sent out about our congregational meeting on June 28 to vote on the acceptance of Pastor Kirsten Lee as our pastor.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Petersen, Secretary

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## Synod Assembly

The 2020 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly is currently scheduled for August 7, 2020, at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

*If you had registered for the previously scheduled May assembly, that registration has been canceled. You will need to complete a new registration for the August 7 assembly. **Online registration ends***

**July 24 at 12:00 PM (Noon).** To register online, go to <https://seiasynod.org/assembly/>

### August 5 Electronic Meeting

This year's assembly will begin with an electronic session (via Zoom) on Wednesday, August 5 at 4:00 PM. Only voting members who have registered online prior to noon on July 24 will be able to participate in this session, at which the stage will be set for the in-person gathering on August 7.

### Safety for Assembly Voting Members and Visitors

Safety is of the utmost importance during the Synod Assembly regardless of when it is held. Because of the pandemic, social/physical distancing will be a priority when at the assembly site. This means that there will be necessary limitations on who can or should attend.

Persons with any symptoms associated with COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend.

Visitors are discouraged from attending and only invited guests/visitors will be admitted to the primary meeting spaces. Plan on a requirement of wearing a face mask during the assembly.

## Responsibilities of Voting Members

Advance preparation by participants is essential to getting the necessary work done in the abbreviated time of a one-day assembly. Registered voting members will receive updates as additional information becomes available, which means that voting members need to have access to email communications. Whether or not a voting member has an email account of their own, an email address where voting members can be reached must be entered at online registration.

Other than ballots for the election processes, no printed materials will be distributed or available at the assembly site. Participants will access pre-assembly information via Guidebook and, if they choose, may print those materials to bring with them to the assembly.

## Bishop Election

For more information on the election process, the Synod Ministry Profile, and updates as they become available, see the election web page, [seiasynod.org/bishopelection](https://seiasynod.org/bishopelection)

## Hotel and Meals

There is no reserved block of hotel rooms for the assembly. If needed, participants will need to book their own lodging.

Menu items will be posted closer to the assembly. Dietary options will not be available at this assembly. Individuals with dietary restrictions are welcome and encouraged to bring their own meals.

Please note there will be no displays or exhibits at this year's Synod Assembly.

## Submitting a Resolution to the Assembly

Due to the shortened nature of this assembly, people or groups interested in submitting resolutions for consideration by the 2020 Synod Assembly should be prepared for the possibility to have those resolutions

referred to the Synod Council. The deadline for resolutions is June 23, 2020.

Resolutions may be submitted by congregations, synod organizational units, conferences, or a voting member of the assembly. For more information on resolutions please follow the [2020 Resolution Guide](#).

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## July 2020, LSI Story

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### We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities

Becky, an LSI Direct Support Professional, supports her client every day through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. During the COVID-19 crisis, Becky has spent her shifts adding extra safety measures and precautions so she and her client could safely go to the grocery store for food and supplies when the time came. But her client regularly experiences PTSD, depression, and anxiety, among other mental health conditions, and the isolation and crisis measures around COVID-19 only heightened her experience of these conditions. Becky knew she needed to do something to keep her client feeling comfortable and safe.

During their sessions together, Becky makes sure they practice good hand washing and wear masks. Her client knows she has someone walking alongside her every step of the way, and the client's young daughter found a way to thank Becky for her work: a picture with the words, "I don't like COVID-19, but I'm happy when you come over." "I can't imagine not seeing my clients through this," Becky says. "We are all in this together."

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### The "wow!" factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, "Wow!" The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named

Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout "Wow!" – in a good way – at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents – and your own. When have these sparked a "Wow!" of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment – a gift from God that warrants our praise.

—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry

## God's constant creativity



In Isaiah 43:19, God proclaims, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (NIV). God's process of creating is active and ongoing, meaning there's always something new for us to notice, grasp and learn.

"God's will is not an abstraction," writes Thomas Merton in *No Man Is an Island*. "It is a living concrete reality in the lives of [people], and our souls are created to burn as flames within his flame. The will of the Lord is not a static center drawing our souls blindly toward itself. It is a creative power, working everywhere, giving life and being and direction to all things, and above all forming and creating, in the midst of an old creation, a whole new world which is called the Kingdom of God."

## Treasure the present

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen

## How will we use our freedom?

In 2000, Cornealious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community.

Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

What would *you* do with such undeserved freedom? What *do* we do with the unmerited freedom God grants us despite our sin, and with the freedoms we celebrate on July 4? May we follow Anderson's example and use our freedoms – social *and* spiritual – to serve others.

—adapted from *Homiletics*

## Taking measure of prayer

Fluency [in prayer] is a questionable endowment, especially when it is not accompanied with the weight of thought and depth of feeling. Some [people] pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.—Charles Spurgeon

## The desert shall blossom

Where there is need, God is always bringing new life, often working through the church but sometimes using Christians and others in the secular realm.

At England's University of Sheffield, scientists have learned to grow gardens from discarded mattresses in refugee camps. In Jordan and other dry regions, the foam "soil" soaked with a nutrient solution lets vegetables, fruits and herbs grow with far less water than usual. Syrian refugees who were already farmers "have made the project their own, growing things we never thought ... possible in the desert," says Professor Tony Ryan.

But more than plants are flourishing! The greenery amid a barren landscape boosts mental health. The work experience will help people land jobs. Families learn new skills and eat more healthfully. And the gains go both ways, as scientists learn to apply research in the real world.

As God promises, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert ... shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing" (Isaiah 35:1-2, ESV).

## Remember the Sabbath

O day of all the days the best,  
When — laid aside each earthly care —  
We meet with God's dear saints so blest,  
And in their praise and worship share.  
Not by a rigid code we're bound  
With death to all who disobey;  
But through God's love within us found,  
We keep this precious worship day.  
—Charles W. Naylor

## Fleeting and forever

After conversing and eating with two followers heading to Emmaus (Luke 24), Jesus disappears from their midst. According to theologian Ronald Goetz, that vanishing has special meaning for followers of the resurrected Lord. "Human love ... is spontaneous, fragile and fleeting," he writes in *The Christian Century*. "Like the heavenly manna of the Exodus, love cannot be preserved and stored. We cannot manage it. We can only hope that it will be there for us when we most need it." Those aren't "melancholy thoughts," though, "any more than the two disciples should have lamented the vanishing of the risen Christ."

Goetz continues, "We know that Christ's vanishing and the vanishing of every human moment ... serve to underscore the utter preciousness of life." This, in turn, makes it a glorious mystery that the life we experience as fragile is, in fact, eternal.

## Bible Quiz

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?



- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug

Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)

## Mixed messages

For their summer offering, Sunday school students donated money to a missionary family. Before teachers sent a care package overseas, they asked students to write short notes, letting the recipients know they were in children's prayers.

"The family is pretty busy," one teacher mentioned, in case the kids hoped to become pen pals. "You might not get a response, but it's kind of you to write."

When teachers collected the messages, they chuckled at what one brutally honest child had written: "We're praying for you, but we don't expect an answer."

## The weight of hate

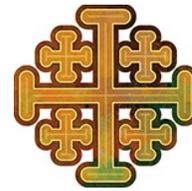
Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything.

According to *Mental Floss*, if you're a misodokleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There's even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist.

Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (verse 32).

## +Christian Symbol+



### Jerusalem Cross

This complex cross, also called the Crusader's Cross or Fivefold Cross, has several interpretations. The main cross is composed of four tau (T) crosses representing the Old Testament law. The four small Greek crosses symbolize the fulfillment of the law in the gospel. The five crosses together represent the church's mission: to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth. They're also said to symbolize Christ's five wounds (hands, feet and side).

*The July, August, and September "Christ in Our Home" and "The Word in Season" and a new "The Lutheran Message" are now available in fellowship hallway.*



## Recipe Corner

### Barbeque Chicken Sliders

King's Hawaiian sweet buns (8 or 12 pk)  
 4 cups cooked chicken, shredded  
 (I use rotisserie chicken)  
 1 cup BBQ sauce (I used Sweet Baby Rays)  
 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced  
 1 cup mozzarella, grated  
 1/2 cup smoked gouda, grated  
 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves,  
 roughly chopped  
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 Fresh ground black pepper as desired

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350° F. Prepare a 9 x 9 or 9X13 baking dish with parchment paper. Lightly spray paper with non stick cooking spray. Split buns in half and place bottoms of slider buns in the prepared baking dish.

In a small bowl, combine shredded chicken with 1/2 cup of the bbq sauce. Mix until completely coated. Spread chicken equally across the buns. Top with remaining bbq sauce. Evenly sprinkle mozzarella, red onion, gouda, and 1 tablespoon cilantro across the chicken topped sliders. Add pepper as desired.

Place the top buns on top of the sliders. Cover with foil and bake for 15 minutes. While baking, melt the butter. Add remaining cilantro and set aside. Remove foil from the pan. Brush each bun with butter mixture. Bake, uncovered, for another ten minutes, until tops are golden. Serve immediately.

Hi everyone! There is still plenty of Summer left. Get-togethers this year seem to be questionable. but would still like to have some recipes to share with everyone in future newsletters. I know there are some awesome cooks and ideas out there--homemade ice cream, pies, desserts, cold/hot sandwiches, salads, snacks, just to name a few! Just send the recipes to [neweralutheran@gmail.com](mailto:neweralutheran@gmail.com)!

Hope to see your yummy ideas!!!

# PUZZLE

## WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

*Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.*

 + e	Water changes to _____	JOHN 2:1-11
 - k + d	Heals a man born _____	JOHN 9
 - op +  - w	Calms a _____	MATTHEW 8:23-27
f +  - d	Catch of _____	LUKE 5:1-11
 - ch + er	Walks on _____	MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

# Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

## Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

Tyre	Sidon	Kadesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

God's Kingdom

## UNSEEN BUT *active*

This experiment illustrates that although God is invisible, we can see his work all around us.

**What you need:**

- Drinking glass
- Water
- Index card

**What you do:**

1. Practicing over a sink, fill the glass halfway with water. Then press the index card snugly atop the glass with one hand.
2. With the other hand, hold the base of the glass and carefully flip it over.
3. Remove your hand from the card. It should stay on the glass, without spilling the water! The invisible air in the glass creates a suction with the card, preventing the water from spilling out. Research air pressure to learn more.
4. After perfecting the trick, amaze others with it. Then talk about how God, like the air in the glass, is unseen but active.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2	3 	
5 10:30 am – Worship	6	7	8 	9	10	11
12 10:30 am – Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 am – Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 am – Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

**NOTE:** Please email any information for the newsletter to Joan Dietrich at [neweralutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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**



**WELCOME BACK!!**

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, WORSHIP WILL BE HELD  
OUTSIDE (WEATHER PERMITTING) OR INSIDE THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

**There will be no social hour after church.**

**You may converse with each other, but please maintain social distancing.**

**We ask that face masks be worn.**

Just a few pics of the awesome volunteers on cleanup day!

