New Era Lutheran Church

August 2020 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
405-248-0586

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/NewEraLutheranChurch

Beloved siblings in Christ,

What is your name? What stories do you have about your name? Your name has power and meaning, whether this is your given name or a nickname. Your name tells a story about your identity. Such as, who named you and why your name was chosen. Your story of who you are is part of our collective story as the children of God. And our collective story is part of God's story in how God cares for God's people.

In Isaiah 43:1 we hear God tell the Israelites this promise: "[1]But now thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

In this chapter of Isaiah 43, God is speaking to the Israelites as they suffer during their exile from their home. This is a time of deep despair and lament for the Israelites. Their faith in God is weak and they worry where their God is in their pain. In this passage, God speaks directly to the Israelites. God comforts by reminding the Israelites of God's continuous love and care for each one of them. God who created them, named them and gives each of them love, grace, and forgiveness. As the Israelites suffer, God does not forget them, but instead speaks directly to them with loving compassion.

In this passage, we hear how God calls us by name. As we are also God's children and God's living Word is timeless, God speaks directly to each of us in this passage. God who created heaven and earth, God who led the Israelites through the exodus and the exile, calls you by name. Our expansive and timeless God knows the power of your name. For the name by which God calls you is Beloved. God promises to call you Beloved every day of your life-especially in times of pain, grief, and confusion. There is tremendous power in God's naming you Beloved. As you grow into who God created you to be, God's Beloved claim on you forms how these other pieces of your identity are lived out. As pieces of your identity change, Beloved remains and outlasts all other pieces of who you are.

Your story is beloved because God names you as Beloved. Your story is part of God's story as God always cares for God's beloved children.

- Read through the first verse again. This time, imagine God is speaking directly to you. In verse one, replace O Jacob and O Israel with your name.
- What might God be saying to you in this passage?
- Spend time reflecting on your story. How might God be shaping and forming the story of your life? How do you see your story as part of God's story?

I invite you to spend time with this verse and share your thoughts with someone you know and love. As I meet you and learn more about you, I look forward to hearing your story. I look forward to listening to how you've seen God in your story and where you think God might be leading you. I pray God's love and care is poured out to you in abundant ways. Christ's merciful grace and forgiveness is for you, now and forever.

In Christ,
Pastor Kirsten

A Warm Welcome to Pastor Kirsten Lee and her family

Pastor Chris Lee, Pastor Kirsten, Abbi, Amaya, and Zoe

Birthdays	***Anniversaries***
5 – Deanna Timm	4 – Neil & Chris Wulf
5 – Keith Batteau	14 – Ken & Shirley Petersen
9 – Robert Gladwell	14 – Paul & Ann Mayes
10 – Brent Ford-Johnson	19 – Dan & Shirley Petersen
10 – Kathryn Harland	21 – Craig & Linda Schneider
12 – Nancy Henke	27 – Robert & Betty McMahon
14 – Craig Schneider	30 – Travis & Angela Wulf
16 – Rebecca Dotson	
17 – Kelley Harland	
19 – Larry Irwin	
21 – Richard Leach	
24 – Carol Stalkfleet	
30 – Beth Young	
31 – Janie Swails	

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!

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. The photos will be scanned into the computer and inserted into the directory. Photos will not be destroyed but will be given back to you. A few members have submitted photos, but we need more photos from our members to assist in completing book by October 2020.

Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tara Snyder, Dennis Rinnert, David Kindler, Catherine Dittmer, Steve Batteau, Mike Hermann, Jim Bendt, Rosie Dietrich, Ray Dietrich, Butch Batteau, Dick McCleary, and The Sturgeon Family, and all others who are in need of prayer support.

Sincere condolences to the family of Jerry Thornberg, Gloria Batteau's brother-in-law, who passed away on June 23.

With deepest sympathies to the family of James Bendt who passed away Sunday, July 26, 2020.

Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 after worship. Treasurer books need auditing; Committees need to send in their annual reports to neweralutheran@gmail.com or submit to Office Administrator. Reports need to be submitted no later than Sept. 6. Two candidates from the nominating committee are needed.

Committee Members:

Auditing Committee: Dan Petersen, Mary McCleary, Mike Hermann

Nominating Committee: Betty McMahon, Joan Dietrich, Lynn Bendt

Treasurer: Eric Leacox

Council Secretary: Shirley Petersen

Sunday School Supt.: Lynne Leacox

Reports needed: Auditors, Treasurer, Care & Concern, Charity Sewing, Country Store, Education, Fund Raising, Outreach, Play, Property, Worship & Music, Youth Group, Council Highlights, new Budget.

Brothers & Sisters of New Era,

What a wonderful community of Christ you are! Thank you for the time we shared and for your gracious reception of my ministry (and of me!)

You are a blessing. Thank you for your parting gift of a gift card and the beautiful Isabel Bloom hands sculpture. The sculpture will always remind me that we are held in God's caring hands.

Thank you!

Pastor John

Thank you for all the wonderful birthday wishes and cards I received for my 85th birthday! It was nice to receive so many birthday wishes. Vi Levetzow

New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2020

New Era Church Council met on July 14, 2020, at 6 pm with Pastor Kirsten Lee, Josiah, Ann, Dick, Gloria, Janice, Eric, and Shirley present.

Janice gave devotions and Eric will have them next time.

Minutes from our regular meeting May 19, special meeting on June 3, and Congregational meeting on June 28 were read. Eric will send out the Treasurer's report online when finished. Gloria reported her Care & Concern Committee meeting is still sending cards.

Dick's property report: Replaced sump pump hose in gym basement, successful yard cleanup day on June 6 with 16 helpers, replaced church mailbox, and a stool in the women's bathroom.

Ann gave the pastor a copy of the updated marriage booklet for her to look over. Joan is going to take pictures for our church directory in the next few weeks after church. Ann will talk to Bill Turner about cleaning our basement.

Our annual meeting will be September 20 after church. We will continue outside worship for the foreseeable future. Pastor Kirsten will be doing online devotions and sermons. Josiah moved and Eric seconded to hold off on Sunday School until we deem it safe. Josiah moved and Ann seconded to put off our Country Store for a year. Both motions passed. Pastor Kirsten asked that we have our church council meetings every other month on the first Tuesday, so our next meeting will be September 1 at 6 pm. She also needs a computer for parish work, so we will work with Gloria Dei on this.

Ann moved and Gloria seconded to adjourn. All in favor. We ended our meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Petersen, Secretary

New Era Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting – June 28, 2020

New Era Lutheran Church had a quorum (35 present) for a congregational meeting on June 28, 2020, at 11:05 am. Ann Mayes, church council vice president, led the meeting and asked for any questions from the congregation. Eric Leacox answered questions, and if anyone has needs, they need to communicate with our pastor. With the pandemic and all the unknowns, we will all have to be flexible all the way around.

Dan Petersen moved to approve the compensation package and extend the call to Pastor Kirsten Lee. The chairman called for a hand vote, and it was a unanimous vote in favor.

If accepted, she will be 75% at Gloria Dei and 25% at New Era.

Acting chairman Ann Mayes adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Petersen, Secretary

August 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! This year's back-to-school time feels a little different than usual for all of us, but imagine what it would be like to be a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder.

For the last several months, their routine has been turned upside-down and they've learned to adjust to a new way of life. Moving back into a school year structure can be particularly stressful and it can be difficult to concentrate and cope.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental health services to children and families across the state. It's our job to relate to children who might feel alone or misunderstood. Our therapists provide virtual telehealth therapy sessions with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team collaborates with families virtually or in a community setting to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision-making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

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.

We are Still Here: LSI's Therapy Services

When LSI's workforce began working remote as a COVID-19 precaution, therapist Andrea knew she would need to adjust to a new way of providing therapy to the clients she serves. In particular, one individual she met with struggled with anxiety on a daily basis. With the pandemic, however, her anxiety deepened and she spiraled to levels she hadn't encountered in years. And she was afraid she would no longer be able to see Andrea and receive the weekly therapy she'd relied on. But that wasn't stopping Andrea. She set up a home office where she could provide telehealth virtual therapy sessions to all her clients in need of the same consistent care they were used to. Andrea used this time to work with her client on self-care strategies, coping skills, and mindfulness to help her client stay grounded when she felt anxious. Andrea's client now has the tools she needs to handle the difficult days through this crisis, and Andrea is able to continue providing life-changing serves to Iowa children, adults, and families in her community.

Shine on, friends!

Friendship is one of the greatest gifts a human being can receive. It is a bond beyond common goals, common interests or common histories. It is a bond stronger than sexual union can create, deeper than a shared fate can solidify and even more intimate than the bonds of marriage or community.

Friendship is being with the other in joy and sorrow, even when we cannot increase the joy or decrease the sorrow. It is a unity of souls that gives nobility and sincerity to love. Friendship makes all of life shine brightly.
—Henri Nouwen

Patient attention, valuable discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* ("year of wonders") and reportedly said, "If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent."

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope" (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

The victor's crown

In ancient Greece, a laurel wreath symbolized victory and honor. When Jesus was forced to wear a crown of thorns on Good Friday, the intent was mockery. Yet through his Easter victory, Jesus proves that he's not just a king but the King of

kings. And by defeating death, he offers us "the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Peter 5:4, NIV).

As we await that heavenly prize, we can contemplate these words from evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson: "We are all making a crown for Jesus out of these daily lives of ours — either a crown of golden, divine love, studded with gems of sacrifice and adoration, or a thorny crown, filled with the cruel briars of unbelief, or selfishness and sin."

God amid pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, "Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you" (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).—Sandy Hyland

One and only

God declines to sit atop an organizational flowchart. He is the organization. He is not interested in being president of the board. He is the board. And life doesn't work until everyone else sitting around the table in the boardroom of your heart is fired. He is God, and there are no other applicants for that position.

There are no partial gods, no honorary gods, no interim gods, no assistants to the regional gods. God is saying this not because he is insecure but because it's the way of truth in this universe, which is his creation. Only one God owns and operates it. Only one God designed it, and only one God knows how it works. He is the only God who can help us, direct us, satisfy us, save us. —Kyle Idleman, *Gods at War*

A lachrymatory lesson

To calm his crying children, Charles Ferrell used to say, "Wait until I get a jar! I want to catch and save your tears." While he pretended to search for a vessel, his kids usually quieted down.

Tear jars were actually common in biblical times. Called *lachrymatories,* they're still sold in Old Jerusalem. Bible characters had a variety of uses for these jars. The woman who cried at Jesus' feet may have felt such sorrow about her wayward lifestyle that she brought a jar of her tears and added to them. In Psalm 23:5 (KJV), the cup that "runneth over" may have referred to a lachrymatory filled with tears of joy due to God's goodness.

The rhythm of rest

Does God indeed need to rest? Of course not! But did God choose to rest? Yes. Why? Because God subjected creation to a rhythm of rest and work that he revealed by observing the rhythm himself, as a precedent for everyone else. In this way, he showed us a key to order in our private worlds. —Gordon McDonald

Precision-crafted by the Master

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

"For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. … Ninety-nine in a hundred … perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

"She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

"Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

"Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature." Praise God!

Bible Quiz

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

A. They are made of gold and always closed.
B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
C. They are closed by day and open by night.
D. They are made of pearl and never closed.

Answer: D (See Revelation 21:21, 25.)

Usher duty

It's human nature to sometimes slip into judgmentalism and arrogance: "I'd *never* do what *she* did!" we think or say. Or "People who [fill in the blank] shouldn't call themselves Christians. They don't belong in the church." Jesus clearly said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1, ESV) and, memorably, made his point with the image of a speck in someone else's eye and a log in one's own.

In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff reflects further on what Jesus' response would be when we put ourselves in positions of authority over others: "[Jesus] said people who followed him should think of themselves more like ushers rather than the bouncers, and it would be God who decides who gets in. We're the ones who simply show people to their seats that someone else paid for."

Learning — and laughing — on the fly

Faced with the sudden move to live-streamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were "winging it," bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

"This wasn't planned," wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn't cause injury but quickly went viral. "But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful."

+Christian Symbol+

Willow

The billowing branches of the "weeping willow" symbolize mourning, especially of the Israelites as they endured captivity. The willow, which grows well in marshy areas, is associated in the Bible with fruitful, well-watered land (see Ezekiel 17:5). In descriptions of Old Testament festivals of praise, God's people were told "to take branches from luxuriant trees — from palms, willows and other leafy trees — and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days" (Leviticus 23:40, NIV).

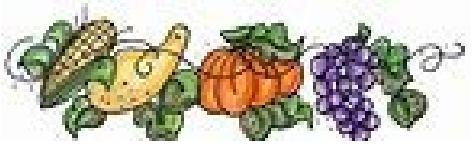
"Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August."
—Denise Levertov

* * *

"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be."
—Douglas Pagels

* * *

"Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future."
—Stanley Hauerwas



Recipe Corner

Avocado Corn Salsa

2 large ears sweet corn (uncooked, husked cleaned, and kernels cut from cob)
1 avocado chopped
½ c halved cherry or grape tomatoes
½ c red onion chopped
½ c jalapeno, seeded and chopped
¼ c chopped cilantro
Juice of 1 lime
2-3T Extra virgin olive oil
Sea salt and black pepper to taste

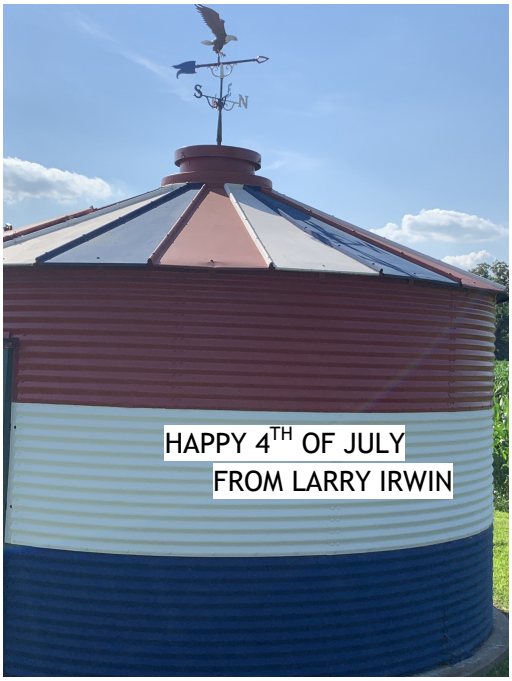
Gently combine all ingredients. Can also be used as a salad. If hotness is desired, add seeds to salsa. Serve with Tostitos Scoops or eat as a salad. If you want a little hotter (spicer), leave jalapeno seeds in salad!

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!

Hope to see your yummy ideas!!!

Voices of Peace

Voices of Peace will be leading our worship service with music on Sunday, August 30. We will be meeting outside and not singing. It was agreed if weather is an issue in being outside, they will cancel and regular worship service will be held in the fellowship hall.



GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue

What you do:

Balloon Badminton: Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

Rhythmic Routines: Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

Champion Crown: Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!

Puzzle!

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown

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 ***VOICES OF PEACE***	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	

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

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.

Farewell Pastor John Grebner

Welcome Pastor Kirsten Lee