



New Era Lutheran Church

June 2021 Newsletter

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Worship Services: 10:30 am

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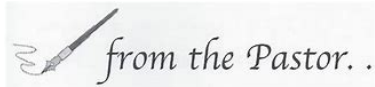
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Bulletin - Items due by Thursday night
Each week
Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
Month

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Dear holy ones,

Happy June! To all the fathers and father figures in our community, happy Father's Day! As I write this newsletter article, I am lifting up the men in our congregation and community, especially as they continue to share their faith through their many gifts. I join you in celebrating fathers (whether biologically a father or through their fatherly role). I pray we can acknowledge these men in our lives and show our gratitude to them in a meaningful way. I also pray these men know how deeply valued they are by so many in their lives.

I also pray for all who grieve and hurt because of this holiday. I pray you feel the unending and unconditional love of your ultimate parent, God who loves you because you are holy and worthy of such love. There is nothing you lack in the heart of God and nothing you need to do to earn God's favor.

I am often reminded in reading scripture that God's view of strength contradicts our societal view of strength. We continue to live in a society that paints a narrow picture of what strength looks like. While our society places value on not asking for help, not admitting pain or vulnerability; God gives

us a different picture. Christ Jesus was filled completely with God's power and strength and still showed vulnerability. Jesus prayed and he wept. He also collaborated with his disciples and relied on them to continue his ministry. I pray we can expand our picture of what it means to be a man and a father. I hope God can help us challenge societal standards and help us create space in our congregation, communities, and homes where we value the many loving ways strength and courage are shown.

A blessing for Fathers

(Adapted from a blessing received from <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/fathers-day-prayers>)

Heavenly Father,

We ask You to bless our earthly fathers for the many times they reflected the love, strength, generosity, wisdom and mercy that you exemplify in your relationship with us.

We honor our fathers for putting our needs above their own convenience and comfort; for teaching us to show courage and determination in the face of adversity; for challenging us to move beyond self-limiting boundaries; for modeling the qualities that would turn us into responsible, principled, caring adults.

Where there is pain, grant peace and healing.

Give us the grace to extend the same

forgiveness that you offer us all.

Help us to resist the urge to stay stuck in past bitterness, instead moving forward with humility and peace of heart.

We ask for your blessing to be upon all who long to be a father but are stuck waiting and grieving. Give them the joy of your love for them and the hope that in you all things are possible.

Help them trust that they are enough and are deeply valued in our congregations and communities.

We ask your blessing on those men who served as father figures in our lives. May the love and selflessness they showed us be returned to them in all their relationships, and help them to know that their influence has changed us for the better.

Give new and future fathers the guidance they need to raise loving children, grounded in a love for God and other people.

We pray that our fathers who have passed into the next life have been welcomed into Your loving embrace, and that our family will one day be reunited in your heavenly kingdom.

Amen.

With Christ's love, †Pastor Kirsten†



*Thanks for
your prayers..*

Dear prayer chain members,

I want to thank all those who prayed with our family for Lucas Harvey, the dear friend and neighbor of our son, Eric. In January at work he accidentally had electricity go through his lower body. After many skin grafts and thankfully no loss of toes, he has returned to work. Thank you for including our family friend in your care.

I would encourage others to share updates on those we pray for.

Your prayers are appreciated, Janice Lichtenwald

Birthdays

1 – Travis Wulf
3 – Joyce Rudbeck
5 – Adam Turner
6 – Erica Wulf
7 – Ada Kurz
10 – Chris Cole
15 – Shirley Petersen
20 – Lindsey Squires
25 – Pastor Chris Lee
26 – Josiah Anderson
26 – Maureen Ruser
28 – Tonya Plowman

Anniversaries

12 – Janice & Jerry Lichtenwald
15 – Jack & Bev Hull
24 – Jerry & Lorraine Geoghegan
27 – Dick & Carolyn Leach

May the good Lord continue to shower you with happiness, good fortune, prosperity and good health all the days of your life.

Happy Birthday and Anniversary!

Special dates

- Flag Day — June 14, 2021
- Father's Day — June 20, 2021
- Summer Begins — June 21, 2021



Alice Hermann, Birdie Wade, Kellijayne Rudbeck, Leroy Kemper, Bill Halling, Myra Davis, Jay Schackle, Pat Behan, John & Susan Hartung, Catherine Dittmer, Family & loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

50th Anniversary

Celebrate with our family!

On June 27, 1971 in Zion, Illinois, Dick and Carolyn Leach were married. We would like to invite all our church family to join us for a picnic lunch following church at our home on June 27, 2021. Darin, Lori, Morgan, and Kayla and Becky, Matt, Caleb, Hannah, Leah, Brody and Theo will host this celebration.



*Congratulations, students, teachers,
and caregivers!*

This school year has been like no other with twists and turns, ups and downs. The challenges have been numerous and unpredictable. New Era celebrates you and all that you've accomplished this school year. We hope the end of this school year brings a sigh of relief and joy-filled celebrations. We honor you and your commitment to keep learning, caring, and teaching under such challenging circumstances. Christ's peace and joy be with you this summer.

A blessing for students, caregivers,
and teachers.

God of curiosity and wondering, we praise you for your gift of children. As they end this school year, bless them with joy and time for play and relaxation. Spark their imagination and continued learning and help us share in their curiosity and wondering. Surround them with your protection and grant them a heart of gratitude for all the blessings you pour out upon them.

God of caring and commitment, we give thanks for all parents, grandparents, and caregivers. We praise you for their love and commitment in raising children who are curious and kind. Bless all caregivers with time to relax and feel renewed in your love for them. Grant them rest and a content heart-trusting that the love they provide is enough.

God of wisdom, thank you for the many teachers you give to us. Bless all teachers with renewal and rest in your care for them. Feed them with your wisdom and compassion as they care for so many. Grant them time to learn and dwell in your Word and all that sparks their curiosity. Surround them with our gratitude for their faithful commitment to teach and care.

MCSA NEEDS – MCSA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

For the months of May and June we will be collecting items for MCSA Needs. The items can be deposited in the basket in the back of the church.

Current Needs:

Box Fans
Razors & Shaving Cream
Garbage Bags (13 & 30 gal)
Quart & Gallon Size Baggies
Folders with & without pockets and prongs
Gloves (Men L-XXL)
Deodorant
New Pillows
Socks (Men & Women)
Coffee & Creamer
Paper Plates
Dish Soap
Disposable bowls
Kitchen Dish Rags
8-oz Styrofoam Cups
Wash Cloths
Kleenex

Jesus is everything



Although growing up as a PK (pastor's kid) could be challenging, admits Ray Ortlund Jr., it also was "a sacred privilege given to me as a gift from God." Ortlund — now a pastor, father and grandfather himself — notes that any difficulties associated with the role were more than offset by his dad's love and admiration, as well as "the real Christianity I saw in him." When Ray Sr. was on his deathbed in 2007, family members gathered in a California hospital to read Scripture, sing hymns and receive a personalized blessing from the patriarch. Ray Jr. was ministering overseas and had to say his earthly goodbyes via the phone. "Later I asked my sister about Dad's message to me," Ortlund writes. "It was this: 'Tell Bud ministry isn't everything. Jesus is.' My dad's dying words summed up his parenting and his whole life."

That you may live

During the pandemic, I've worshiped online with several congregations. The web address for one ends ".net/live." As I navigate to this site, I tend to read the adjective form "live," as in "livestream." One Sunday, however, the verb form, as in "Worship and live," popped into my mind. I had almost slept in and skipped that morning's service. But as I worshiped with others, albeit remotely, my spirit indeed felt increasingly alive. That whole day I felt I was *living* more fully because I'd been inspired by God's Word in sermon and song and shared in praising God with

others. Worship reminds us there is something — Someone — greater than ourselves. Worship opens us to new ways of living.

Moses, after he had passed along God's gift of the Ten Commandments, including the rule to keep the Sabbath day holy through rest and worship, told the people, "Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live" (Deuteronomy 5:33, NIV).

We too worship God regularly — so that we may more fully live.—Heidi Hyland Mann

"Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers and singers of song."

—Pam Brown

* * *

"Green is the prime color of the world, and that from which its loveliness arises."—Pedro Calderón de la Barca

* * *

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

—Winston Churchill

* * *

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."—John Lubbock

See light, be light

In January 2021, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman presented

her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the presidential inauguration. The final lines read: “For there is always light, / if only we’re brave enough to see it. / If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

How often we long for light! In recent years we’ve agonized amid pandemic, angry politics and new awareness of racism. Some have suffered deep sorrow. But Jesus says, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12) and invites us to turn to him. God is always bringing light into darkness, through helpers, healers, peacemakers, friends.

Sometimes bravery is required to turn our focus from the negative to the positive — to see the light of God.

Jesus also says, “*You* are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, emphasis added) and calls us to brighten the gloom. That requires bravery, as Gorman notes, but as Christians we’re urged to look for light not just to make our own lives better but to shine into others’ lives too. The Holy Spirit gives us the needed courage — to both *see* and *be* light.



Super human

Real strength is neither male nor female but is, quite simply, one of the finest characteristics that any human being can possess.—Fred Rogers

Hanging out with Dad

I’ve always been a “daddy’s girl.” Growing up, I usually spent Saturdays in the garage with my dad. We’d build something, fix a car part or get into some trouble together. Though Joseph wasn’t Jesus’ biological father, he certainly served as a father figure for God’s Son. Jesus followed in Joseph’s footsteps as a carpenter, but we’re told little about his childhood. When Joseph advised Jesus to “measure twice and cut once,” did Jesus mention he’d get it right on the first measure? How many craftsman tips did Jesus learn from Joseph? And did Joseph learn a few from Jesus? Surely young Jesus looked up to Joseph. What did wonder look like in the eyes of the One who invented wonder?

How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his “trade”? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God). What task do you imagine doing together? What does God say to you as you look into his eyes?—Janna Firestone

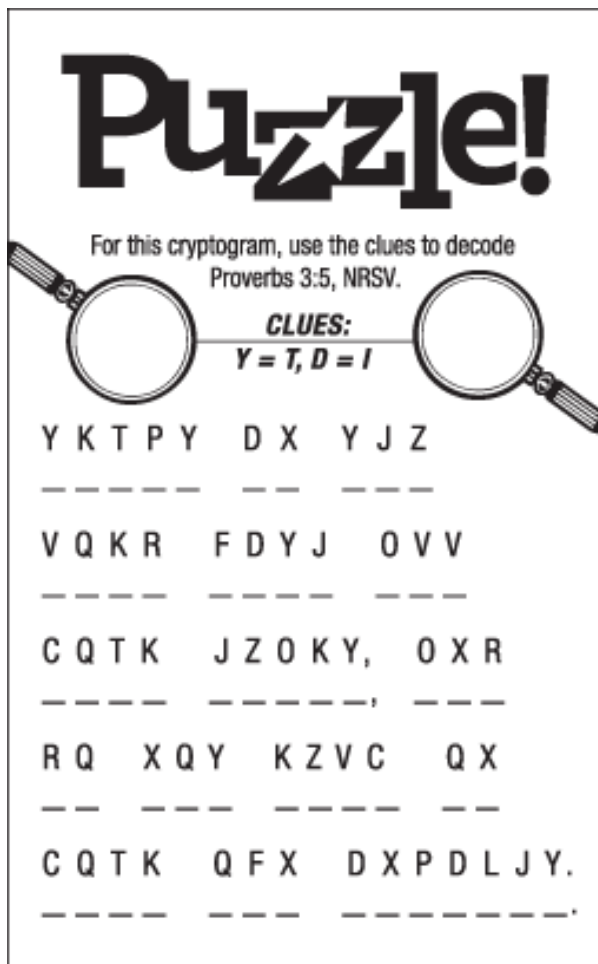
No boundaries

Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn’t stop at our front door or

our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state's or [our] country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth, as the hymn goes. It often calls us to step outside of what we thought our boundaries were, or what others expect of us. It calls for us to sacrifice, not because doing so feels good, but because it's the right thing to do.
—Bishop Michael Curry, *Love Is the Way*

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.



Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

True, needful, kind

If you are tempted to reveal
a tale to you someone has told
about another, make it pass,
before you speak, three gates of gold;
these narrow gates.

First, "Is it true?"

Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind
give truthful answer. And the next
is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?"

And if to reach your lips at last
it passes through these gateways three,
then you may tell the tale, nor fear
what the result of speech may be.

—Beth Day, "The Three Gates" (1835)

A week of tributes to Dad

To celebrate the special man in your life, use a quote a day the week before Father's Day, or honor him with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative!

Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate his love and show him yours.

"The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature." —Antoine F. Prévost

"To the world you are a dad. To our family you are the world." —Unknown

"The best fathers have the softest, sweetest hearts. In other words, great dads are real marshmallows." —Richelle E. Goodrich

"Dad: a son's first hero, a daughter's first love." —Unknown

"A good father is one whose only reason for putting down a laughing baby is to pick up a crying one." —Linda Poindexter

"My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do — be there." —Max Lucado

"I love my father as the stars. He's a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my heart." —Terri Guillemets

Bible Quiz



Complete this proverb:

"Like snow in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn

Answer: B (See Proverbs 26:1, ESV.)

From guilt to grace

For Jerry Schemmel, a 1989 plane crash that killed more than 100 people ended up shaping his life and faith. The sports broadcaster walked away from the tragedy with minimal physical injuries but was haunted by survivor's guilt and PTSD. "The big turning point for me came when I became a Christian," he says. "Things got much easier to deal with after that, I believe, because I had the best ally fighting the fight with me, Jesus Christ."

Schemmel, author of *Chosen to Live*, says he'd love to be able to "go back and rewrite the script" and change what happened that July day in Sioux City, Iowa. "But since I can't, I just have to keep on trusting God, trusting that he put me through this experience to serve him, to be the man he

wants me to be and ultimately give him glory."

Our way out

While in London, Timothy Merrill was intrigued that signs with arrows read WAY OUT, rather than EXIT, as they do in America. "Everywhere I went, I saw signs that showed me the WAY OUT," he writes. That made him ponder all the Bible characters who looked for a WAY OUT of predicaments. Moses looked for a WAY OUT of Egypt, Daniel certainly wanted a WAY OUT of the lions' den and countless people thought (and still think) there's no WAY OUT from their sins.

"The good news of the Gospel," Merrill writes, "is that Jesus Christ is the WAY OUT! He is our exit from the messes and disasters we create. He is the exit from sin and unrighteousness. He is the WAY OUT of a life without purpose and the WAY IN to an abundant life. And the symbol of the WAY OUT is not an arrow but a cross. What a blessing to know that Jesus knows — and is — the WAY OUT!"

Christian symbol

WEDDING SYMBOL—This version of the Chi Rho features two interlocking rings on a cross. It symbolizes the partnership a husband and wife make with God as they unite. The Wedding Cross also symbolizes a couple's commitment to grow together in God's grace and love.





Conundrums of creation

God's creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



- You can hold but not touch this. _____
- Before using this, you must break it. ____
- This falls without getting hurt. _____
- This gets bigger the more you take away. _____
- This has an eye but cannot see. _____

"In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the ____.

It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit
to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth."

PSALM 19:4-6, NIV

Answer: breath, egg, rain, hole, hurricane, sun



Thanks to all who
volunteered for cleanup
day at church! We
welcomed all volunteers!!



Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)









What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!

June 2021

May '21							July '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31												

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Sunday School during the summer - will resume in September!		1 	2	3 Bible Study  6 pm@ Gloria Dei	4	5
6  Annual Reports DUE 10:30 am - Worship Service	7	8 9 am – Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome  COUNCIL MEETING 6 pm	9 10 am - Care & Concern meets - Location TBD	10 Bible Study  6 pm@ Gloria Dei	11	12
13  10:30 am - Worship Service	14 FLAG DAY 	15	16	17 Bible Study  6 pm@ Gloria Dei	18	19
20  10:30 am - Worship Service	21 	22	23 Joan - Vacation - June 23 - July 16)	24 Bible Study  6 pm@ Gloria Dei	25	26
27 10:30 am - Worship Service	28 Pastor Kirsten Lee - Vacation - June 28 - July 5)	29	30	31		