



New Era Lutheran Church

March 2021 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
405-248-0586

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

Worship Services: 10:30 am (online
until further notice thru Zoom or on church
website & FaceBook

Contacts:

Joan Dietrich, Office Admin
Office: 563-263-5356
Office Hours: Tues & Wed – 10 am-2 pm
Thurs – 10 am - Noon
Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com

Organist: Mary Maxson
Choir Director: Lavonne Schrum

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Bulletin & Newsletter– Joan Dietrich

Cell: 563-299-4710
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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/](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)
[NewEraLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)

Dear beloved in Christ,

In Christ, Pr. Kirsten



Birthdays

3 – Mary McCleary
5 – Pastor Kirsten Lee
7 – Skeeter Dugan
9 – Gary Ruser
12 – Steven Batteau
17 – Joan Dietrich
18 – Bev Dugan
18 – Kris Gladwell
21 – Brad Cole

Anniversaries

7- Josiah & Stephanie
Anderson
17 – Chad & Renee
Johnson
20 – Skeeter & Bev
Dugan

*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

- World Day of Prayer — Mar 5, 2021
- Girl Scout Sunday — Mar 7, 2021
- Daylight-Saving Time begins — Mar 14, 2021
- St. Patrick's Day — Mar 17, 2021
- First Day of Spring — Mar 20, 2021
- Palm Sunday — Mar 28, 2021



*Myra Davis, Leroy Kemper, Tammy Willits,
Dick McCleary, Shirley Burr, Doris Brandt,
John & Susan Hartung, Kara Snyder,
Catherine Dittmer, Scott Miller, Jerry
Shook, Jennifer & children, and The*

*Sturgeon Family, Family & loved ones of
Dennis, Jerry, Jim, Leroy, Travis and all
others who are in need of prayer support.*

*Sincere condolences to the family of
Robert "Butch" Batteau. Butch passed
away Monday, Feb. 15, 2021.*

LENT @ New Era 2021 **"Created for Community."**

As stated in the opening letter, our theme this year is created for community as we celebrate the many ways we live in communion with God, with one another, and with creation. This will occur as we worship together and think creatively and expansively on how God calls us to share love and grace with all creation.

Mid- week services

Mid-week services will be shared on the church's Facebook page & church website every Wednesday. They will follow the theme of created for community and offer a time of prayer, scripture, and reflection. Lenten Devotions

This year we are sharing devotions from Augsburg Fortress entitled A Story to tell. These devotionals are in booklet form and provide a brief scripture reading, prayer, and questions for reflection. We are also sharing a children's Lenten booklet, which provides age-appropriate readings, questions, and activities for families to enjoy together. Lastly, we will share weekly & daily ideas on how we can live in

communion with God, with one another, and with creation.

These devotions & the ash kit will be delivered to your home. If you would like to volunteer to help deliver, please let Pr. Kirsten know.

Farewell to ALLELUIA.

You may notice that during Lent we refrain from saying or singing "Alleluia". This word, alleluia, is a Hebrew word for praise the Lord. While we continue to praise the Lord throughout Lent, this is one way we observe a fasting during Lent. This is a tradition that dates back to the 5th Century. When we worship on Easter morning, we joyously proclaim Alleluia as we celebrate Christ's conquering of death and resurrection.

Offering & Giving Envelopes and Booklets

2021 Giving envelopes and the booklets "*The Word in Season*," "*Christ in Our Home*," and "*Lutheran Journal*" are available in the entryway of the church. Please continue to mail in offering to the church or bring it by the church. We are ensuring the mail is regularly collected. The church address is:

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3455 New Era Road
Muscatine IA 52761

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom or in person with restrictions. Members attending were

Pastor Kirsten, Dick, Gloria, Eric, Ann, Janice, and Vicki.

Pastor Kirsten opened with prayer.

Vicki read the minutes. Ann moved to approve and Gloria seconded.

Eric reported and reviewed the treasure accounts for December and January.

Gloria gave a report on Care & Concern group on how we are staying in touch with members during the Covid restrictions.

Dick gave a property report

- Plowing and shoveling - 4 times
- Replacing light fixtures

Earlier in February a survey went out to members about in-person worship. The majority of responses were in favor of in person. Council discussed. Eric made a motion, Ann seconded to resume in-person worship on March 14.

Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 17. Home packets will be ordered and delivered during that week to members so they can follow pastor online.

Next meeting will be April 13, 2021.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully,
Vicki Hampton, Secretary

A breath of fresh prayer

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God "knocks," he said, "not only in the solemn hours of secret



prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most.”

Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”

Laud & honor on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday anthem “All Glory Laud and Honor” is one of Christendom’s oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be ordered to display at church this year. The order deadline is March 11. Please email the church at neweralutheran@gmail.com or call Joan at 563-299-4710. Please indicate the person’s name you would like to have remembered. The cost is \$10 each.

reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus

figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer “because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor.”

All glory, laud and honor to you,
Redeemer, King,

to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel and David's
royal Son,

now in the Lord's name coming, the
King and Blessed One.

“Always show kindness and love to others.
Your words might be filling the empty
places in someone's heart.”—Mandy Hale

* * *

“No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no
gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.”

—William Penn

* * *

“If we dwell upon the harms that have been
wrought on us by humankind, we amputate
from our mind the power of dwelling upon
God.”—Macarius of Egypt (4th century)

A bountiful life

“Life is given to you like a flat
piece of land,” said actress
Jeanne Moreau. “I hope that
when I'm finished, my piece of land will be
a beautiful garden.”



God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God's provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?

Setting captives free

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In Confessio 61, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises."

Feline-informed faith

I am the epitome of a "cat lady": Each of my five felines has taught me a bit about faith. As I settle into bed, Piccolo presses his

body tightly against mine. As I type, Tina sits on my lap, often reaching to rest a paw on my hand (the one on the mouse, of course!). Pumpkin cries persistently, even raising his front legs like toddler arms when he wants to be picked up. Yet, as any cat lover knows, these animals can be stubbornly aloof — at least until mealtime. My cats' actions make me think about how intentional daily Bible reading is like pressing myself against God. When I see God's presence in nature or someone's kindness, pausing to give thanks is like reaching out to touch God's hand. When I feel needy, I can stretch my spirit toward God's embrace with an honest prayer. And when I make myself aloof — as, alas, I sometimes do — I can rejoice that God's love always calls me back, to nourish me again.—Heidi Mann

That's the point!

If prayer stands as the place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer. Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge.

--Philip Yancey

The comfort connection

Amid suffering, we might feel alone and wonder what good can come of it. But later we may discover ourselves equipped to serve precisely because of what we experienced.

Writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin stated: "You think your pain and heartbreak are unprecedented ... but then you read. [Books] taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive or who had ever been alive." Whether through books or direct human interaction, we often learn that our suffering connects us to other people and that our pain gains meaning by moving us to support someone else who's hurting.

Paul writes of such connection: "Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV). May you share the comfort you have received from God with others in pain. As a bonus, along the way you'll realize you're not — and never have been — alone.

True freedom

Our body has not only been created by God and will one day be resurrected by him, but it has been bought by Christ's blood and is indwelled by his Spirit. Thus it belongs to God three times over, by creation, redemption and indwelling. How then, since it does not belong to us, can we misuse it?

Instead, we are to honor God with it, by obedience and self-control. Bought by Christ, we have no business to become the slaves of anybody or anything else. Once we were slaves of sin; now we are the slaves

of Christ, and his service is the true freedom.—John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

When God giggles

Before dinner, our family was preparing to pray, which we do by holding hands. Upon discovering that one child hadn't washed his hands, my husband struck a contorted pose to avoid physical contact. The mealtime blessing quickly dissolved into laughter as we each peeked at him.

Afterward, as we passed around the food, I asked, "What do you imagine God thought about us laughing during prayer?" One child quickly replied, "I think he was laughing right along with us."

Yes! Although prayer is reverent, God invites us to converse with words, emotions — and even giggles!—Janna Firestone

Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?



- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

God in my hands

When I was ready to give up on the Church, it was the sacraments that pulled me back.

When my faith had become little more than an abstraction, a set of propositions to be affirmed or denied, the tangible, tactile nature of the sacraments invited me to touch, smell, taste, hear, and see God in the stuff of everyday life again. They got God out of my head and into my hands. They reminded me that Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people. They reminded me that, try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own.—Rachel Held Evans

Paying it back — and forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

Christian symbol



CROSS OF TRIUMPH—Also known as the Cross of Victory, this cross symbolizes Christ's final triumph and his reign throughout the earth. The Cross of Triumph is often depicted atop Jesus' scepter when he's shown in his kingly office.





BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VDEO

_____ (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

_____ (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

_____ (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

_____ (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

"Are not five _____ sold for
two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten
by God. ... Don't be afraid; you are worth
more than many _____."

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String



What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

Prep time-5 mins

Cook time-10 mins

Total time-15 mins

Serves: 6-8

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14												

1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV



Ingredients

- 1 cup Peanut Butter Chips
- 1 Bag Cadbury mini eggs
- 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 1 (5 ounce) can chow mein noodles
- 2 trays lined with parchment or wax paper.
- 1 Small bowl of warm water

Instructions

Microwave chips in large, microwave-safe bowl (uncovered) on 70% power for 1 minute. Stir in peanut butter until smooth, if very stiff or lumpy: microwave for an additional 15 seconds on high and re-stir.

Add in chow mein noodles to peanut butter mixture; stir until coated with a spoon. The mixture should now be only warm to the touch.

Wet your fingers in the warm water (prevents mixture from sticking to your hands) and scoop about 2 to 3 tablespoons of the nest material on to a lined cookie sheet. Immediately form into the desired nest-like shape.

Let stand until hardened or refrigerate until ready to serve. Before serving, fill nest with cadbury mini eggs, M&M's, etc. (the number required will vary depending on the nest size)



















Edible Easter Basket Nests



March 2021



February '21							April '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28							25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1	2  	3	4 	5 	6
7  LENT Girl Scout Sunday	8	9  	10 10 am - Care & Concern Meet at Fellowship Hall	11 In office from 1:30 PM-3:30 PM	12	13
14  LENT <u>Tentative date to Worship in Person</u>  Daylight Savings Time	15	16 	17 	18	19	20 
21  LENT	22	23 	24	25	26	27
28 	29	30 	31	 Every Tuesday at Gloria Dei at Noon. Feel free to join in via Zoom meeting.  Wednesday Night Lenten Services can be found on Facebook or church website		