



New Era Lutheran Church

May 2021 Newsletter

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New Era Lutheran Church
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Muscataine, IA 52761
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Worship Services: 10:30 am

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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 holy one,

As April turns into May, we enter into a month of celebrations. While Mother's Day can be a joyous day for many, it can also be a sorrowful day for many. I give God thanks for giving us space where joy and sorrow can coexist. It is my hope that as Christ's body, we can help create space for both joy and sorrow in our congregation, in our communities, and in our homes. With that in mind, I share the prayer that follows this letter.

I join you in celebrating the women in your life who have taught you, shaped you, and loved you into the person you are today. I am the person and pastor I am today because of many faithful and courageous women who modeled for me God's expansive and bold love. I pray we can acknowledge these women in our lives and show our gratitude to them in a meaningful way.

I also join you if you approach this day with apprehension and grief. You are seen and heard and I pray you are reminded that you do not walk alone in your sorrow. God who knows your deepest thoughts and prayers weeps with you and feels the anger and sorrow you feel. In unconditional love, God sees you as honorable and worthy of a life of deep love and grace. If you need someone to help you see this, I welcome your conversation, your lament, and your prayers.

I carry wounds from being raised by a mother who was both loving and hurtful. I receive comfort and hope in our God who is our ultimate and constantly loving parent. While God can often be associated as Father with male pronouns, God is not limited to gender. God is our Parent, both Father and Mother. God is love, strength, wisdom, courage, faithfulness, gentleness, and compassion. God give you this all without end and welcomes you to Christ's table, where there is always a place of honor set for you.

With Christ's love, †Pastor Kirsten†

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Adapted by Heidi Carrington Heath, originally written by Amy Young.

"We are praying for you if you are like Tamar, struggling with infertility, or a miscarriage or if you are like Rachel, counting the women among your family and friends who year by year and month by month get pregnant, while you wait.

We are praying for you if you are like Naomi and have known the bitter sting of a child's death, or if you are like Joseph and Benjamin, and your Mom has died.

We are praying for you if your relationship with your Mom was marked by trauma, abuse, or abandonment, or she just couldn't parent you the way you needed.

We are praying for you if you've been like Moses' mother and put a child up for adoption, trusting another family to love your child into

adulthood. Or if you've been like Pharaoh's daughter, called to love children who are not yours by birth.

We are praying for you if you are watching, or have watched your mother age, and disappear into the long goodbye of dementia.

We are praying for you if you, like Mary, are pregnant for the very first time and waiting breathlessly for the miracle of your first child.

We are praying for you if your children have turned away from you, painfully closing the door on relationship, leaving you holding your broken heart in your hands.

We are praying for you if motherhood is your greatest joy and toughest struggle all rolled into one.

We are praying for you if you are watching your child battle substance abuse, a public legal situation, mental illness, or another situation which you can merely watch unfold.

We are praying for you if you, like so many women before you, do not wish to be a mother, are not married, or in so many other ways do not fit into societal norms.

We are praying for you if you see yourself reflected in all, or none of these stories.

This Mother's Day, wherever and whoever you are, we walk with you. You are loved. You are seen. You are worthy. And may you know the deep love without end of our big, wild, beautiful God who is the very best example of a parent that we know. Amen."

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer – May 6
- Mother's Day – May 9
- Ascension of the Lord – May 13
- Day of Pentecost – May 23
- Trinity Sunday – May 30
- Memorial Day – May 31



Birthdays

4 - Dallas Wulf
7 - Bill Halling
8 - Neil Wulf
11 - Bob McMahon
13 - Emery Anderson
14 - Angela Wulf
16 - Catherine Alexander
19 - Cassidy Probasco
22 - Lydia Anderson
23 - Chuck Harland
27 - Renee Johnson
27 - William Anderson
28 - Rob Gladwell
31 - Darrian Plowman

Anniversaries

9 – Aaron & Rachel Turner
12 – Nikki & Matt Kurz
23 – Tim & Mary McCleary
24 – Luke & Cassidy Probasco
30 – Eric & Lynne Leacox

*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

- National Day of Prayer, May 6, 2021
- Mother's Day, May 9, 2021
- Ascension Day, May 13, 2021
- Pentecost, May 23, 2021
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 24, 2021
- Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021
- Memorial Day, May 31, 2021



Leroy Kemper, Jennifer Meador, Bill Halling, Shirley Burr, Myra Davis, Jay Schackle, Pat Behan, John & Susan Hartung, Catherine Dittmer and all others who are in need of prayer support.

Sincere condolences to the family of Tammi Willis who passed away Monday, Mar 8, 2021.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Dick McCleary who passed away on Saturday, Feb 27, 2021.

Sincere condolences to the family of Doris Brandts who passed away Mar 29, 2021 in Blue Grass IA.



*New Era Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your prayers and
support through Tamara's ordeal.
New Era has a special place in our
hearts because:*

- 1) We were married there.*
- 2) We were involved in the parsonage building project.*
- 3) She was/had multi-generational legacy.*

Jerry Willis

New Era Friends,

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love, prayers, and support you have extended to Adam and me during this time after the loss of my mother. The wooden butterfly is absolutely beautiful.

*Thank you so much again
- Kim & Adam Turner*

New Era Church & Care & Concern

Thank you so very much for the flowers for Admin Prof Day/ Secretaries Day. It was a nice surprise to find them on the desk when I came to the office.

Joan Dietrich

New Era Church Clean-up Day May 15, 2021, 9 am



**Come and
Join Us!**



Muscatine Community



Did you know Muscatine is home to its very own Community Diaper Bank? Started in 2019, the Diaper Bank strives to raise awareness of the diaper need in our community, while advocating for families in need and ensuring that these families have an adequate supply of diapers. Periodically, we have done Diaper Drives in Muscatine, but we also have another way for you to help this vital community resource!

For the month of May, the Community Diaper Bank has been selected by Hy-Vee to participate in their Hy-Vee Red Bag program that supports local non-profits.

Here's how it works:

- Go to your Muscatine Hy-Vee store.
- Purchase a \$2.50 red "My Heart" reusable bag.
- \$1 of your purchase will be donated to the Community Diaper Bank!

It's that simple! Concerned about use of reusable bags during the COVID-19 pandemic? Hy-Vee is now accepting reusable bags once again!

So help out your Community Diaper Bank: go get your bag, and spread the word!

Tree Dedication

On Sunday, April 18, a tree was dedicated by Vicki and Terry Hampton to the church in memory of the late Dan Sauer in honor of what would have been his 100th birthday on April 19th. The tree is located in the front of the church. A poem was written by Ruby Sauer and was read during the dedication. Poem is as follows:



NEW ERA

1st Verse

There's a dear little spot,
In a deep wooded plot,
Where the wild birds may flutter at will.
And I long to be there,
Its compassion to share,
And its solitude restful and still.

Chorus

Its New Era by name,
And a wide shady lane,
Winding down to the old wooden mill,
Seems to beckon to me
And I long to be there
In the woods with the lone whip poor will.
Its an Eden to me
And I love every tree,
That grows in this green wooded dell
And I can't stay away
When I hear the sweet lay
Of the little white church steeple bell.

2nd Verse

There's a little white church
Among the oaks and the birch.
And a wild vine that twines round the door.
And the soft balmy light
From the windows at night
Welcomes all the whole country side o'er.

Chorus

3rd Verse

There are memories dear.
That encircle me there
Of a loved one that sleeps neath the sod.
And a sweet hallowed face
That belonged to that place
Smiles above in a home with her God.

Words by Ruby Edwards Sauer

**New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – Mar 14, 2021**

A meeting was held with Pastor Kirsten, Janice, Josiah, Dick, Gloria, Vicki, Ann, and Eric.

Good Friday service will be held at 6:30 pm at Gloria Dei and Maundy Thursday service also at 6:30 at Gloria Dei.

Ann reported she spoke to Joan about getting a sign-up list ready for readers, ushers, etc.

Easter will be at 10:30 am in person in the New Era Church sanctuary. With pews tied off, there would be enough seats for about 66 people. Overflow could be in the Fellowship Hall if needed.

Communion will be offered on Easter Sunday to those wishing to participate using individual cup portions.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully,
Vicki Hampton, Secretary

**New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – Apr 13, 2021**

The council meeting was called to order at 6 pm. Attending were Ann, Dick, Eric, Janice, Gloria, Vicki, and Pastor Kirsten.

Pastor opened with a reading.

Treasurers Report: Given by Eric and reviewed the March statement and reports.

Care & Concern: Gloria reported they soon will be able to visit those in care facilities. Cards and phone calls are currently keeping in contact with members.

Property Report: Dick reported he changed furnace filters first of April. A water line in the gym needs a plumber to look at it. One will be called. The New Era sign needs repaired.

New Business:

Clean-up day is Saturday, May 15 at 9 am.

Church services will continue with social distancing. Communion will continue to be taken in the pews.

Outdoor worship may be offered during good weather.

The church directory will be ready to review by members to approve or correct personal information. Watch for email.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around. Please fill in where you can help.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be June 8, 2021.

Respectfully,
Vicki Hampton, Secretary

A shared experience



What comes to
mind when you
hear the

word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy?

*"If you find it in your heart to care for
somebody else, you will have
succeeded."*—Maya Angelou

* * *

*"Dripping water hollows out stone,
not through force but through
persistence."*—Ovid

* * *

*"If at first you don't succeed, try
doing it the way mom told you to in
the beginning."*—Unknown



Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!
—Annette Wynne

Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an "EGR." I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they're the most in *need* of love because they're hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much" (Matthew 5:46, NLT).

Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening,

sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts.

At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend *to* us and then *through* us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God’s grace and love with people who need it.—Janna Firestone

Keep moving!

As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: “Congratulations!” (in a loud voice) and “Keep moving” (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don’t stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!

Look ahead

“The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today,” says Priscilla Shirer. “Like the Israelites, it means you are spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future, all the while missing what God is doing right now.”

A week of tributes to Mom

To celebrate the special woman in your life, use a quote a day the week before Mother’s Day, or honor her 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 her love and show her yours.

“There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one.” —Jill Churchill

“The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.” —Elaine Heffner
“An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest.” —Spanish proverb

“When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it’s a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway.” —Erma Bombeck

“The mother’s heart is the child’s schoolroom.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.” —Marion C. Garretty

“Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn’t know you had.” —Linda Wooten

At home with Christ

In *The Longing for Home*, Frederick Buechner writes: "The word *longing* comes from the same root as the word *long* in the sense of length in either time or space and also the word *belong*, so that in its full richness to long suggests to yearn for a long time for something that is a long way off and something that we feel we belong to and that belongs to us. ... The home we long for and belong to is finally where Christ is. I believe that home is Christ's kingdom, which exists both within us and among us as we wend our prodigal ways through the world in search of it."

While awaiting our heavenly home, we pray: Most High God, be our shelter from the storm and our dwelling place. May we always be at home with you in the eternal household you have prepared for those who love you. And may Christ always find a pleasant home in and among us. As you have welcomed us into your family, give us the compassion to welcome others into our own homes and lives, knowing that as we do it unto the least of these, we do it unto Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.—
adapted from *The Wired Word*

Worth celebrating

While going through the so-called "daily grind," it's fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up!

Although *every* day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life's concerns pile high,

distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to www.NationalDayCalendar.com. Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you'll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!). These fun "occasions" can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.



Bible Quiz

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4.)

Dogs' best friend

A 71-year-old graduate in Turkey has become an inspiration to many. Fevzi Uyar had retired after teaching biology for 42 years but decided to pursue another

degree. Known as the “grandfather” of homeless animals, he routinely traveled 90 miles every two days to feed stray dogs, who came to recognize his van. Uyar also built dozens of plywood shelters, complete with rugs and blankets, for the dogs. But Uyar often encountered dogs needing medical care and racked up debts with a local veterinarian, so he enrolled in classes himself. The recent graduate now vaccinates and treats the animals he loves so much.

“God spoke: ‘Let us make human beings in our image, ... so they can be responsible for ... every animal that moves on the face of Earth’” (Genesis 1:26, MSG). Fevzi Uyar’s care for stray dogs beautifully reflects God’s intent for creation.

Christian symbol



THREE INTERWOVEN CIRCLES—

Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity’s eternal nature. The circles’ interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity.





PUZZLE

A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

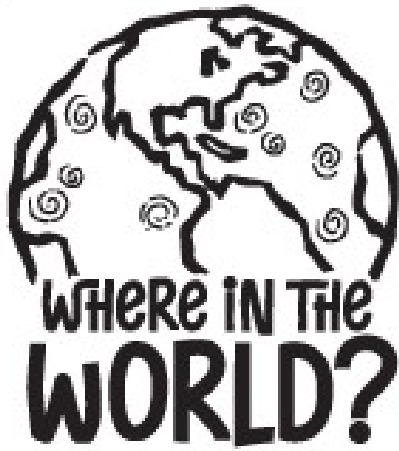
Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in 	but not in 	_____
Find a letter that's in 	but not in 	_____
Find a letter that's in 	but not in 	_____
Find a letter that's in 	but not in 	_____
Find a letter that's in 	but not in 	_____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

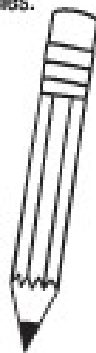
Answer power



Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.

Eternal worth



Scripture does not know of any human life which is so commonplace that it is not valuable enough to become eternal, and this is its high optimism. Nothing

is too much for Scripture. Since every person is known by God by name, and since every person exists in time in the presence of the God who is judgment and salvation, every person is a person of eternity, and not just the noble spirits of history. —Karl Rahner

May 2021



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service	3	4 	5	6  Bible Study 6 pm@ Gloria Dei	7	8
9  9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome	12 10 am - Care & Concern meets @ Fellowship Hall	13  Bible Study 6 pm@ Gloria Dei	14	15  9 am - Clean-up day @ New Era
16 9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service	17	18	19	20 Bible Study 6 pm@ Gloria Dei	21	22
23  9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service	24	25	26	27 Bible Study 6 pm@ Gloria Dei	28	29
30  9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service	31  Memorial Day					