



New Era Lutheran Church

August 2021 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
405-248-0586

New Era Lutheran Church
3455 New Era Road
Muscatine, IA 52761
Sunday School: 9:30 am (Sept-May)
Worship Services: 10:30 am

Contacts:

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Office: 563-263-5356
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Thurs – 10 am - Noon
Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com

Organist: Mary Maxson
Choir Director: Lavonne Schrum

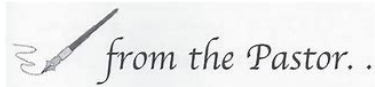
Building Rental –

Gloria Batteau
Church, Fellowship Hall, Gym
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Bulletin & Newsletter– Joan Dietrich

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Bulletin - Items due by Wednesday night
each week
Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
month

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[NewEraLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)



“¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.” (Psalm 145: 15-18)

Dear holy ones,

This past month marks one year that I have been your pastor. What a joy, privilege, and blessing it is to be your pastor! The hospitality and care my whole family has received has been authentic, sincere, and remarkable. Quite often, I have noticed leaving worship and feeling your genuine love in the core of my being.

As part of my one-year mark, the council conducted an annual review on me as your pastor. The review was facilitated by Pastor Erika Uthe who is the Director for Evangelical Mission for the SE IA Synod. The council met with Pastor Erika privately and then shared their discussion with me. It is important that the congregation know that an annual review is conducted because the pastor is accountable to the congregation and the ministry we take part in is done together. Here is a summary of the review:

While we lament that many of our well-loved events were cancelled this year, we celebrate that we continued to worship together in new ways, such as outdoors and online. We also celebrate the many ways we cared for one another as we remained physically apart. Sending cards, phone calls, delivering Advent and Lenten devotionals, and Advent family packages were only some of the ways we shared Christ's love.

The challenges I experienced this year were the setbacks in connecting with each of you. I sincerely hope to meet all of you and get to know you more this next year. I invite you to give me a call. I welcome a time to get to know you and your family better.

As we look ahead, the council hopes to find ways of connecting more intentionally with visitors who may come to our building for an event outside of worship. We also hope to connect more intentionally to parishioners we miss seeing at worship. In addition to these goals, I hope to learn more about the culture and community of Muscatine and connect more with the children and youth of New Era. I also hope to provide leadership and support as we reflect on how best to share our financial gifts.

I am excited and hopeful to see how God calls us to share the congregation's strengths of acceptance, hospitality, generosity, and faithfulness. These strengths are how we live out Christ's love with our community and the world. I am confident God will continue to sustain us and strengthen us as we share the good

news of Jesus Christ and grow in faith together. I am praying for you and walking with you.

With Christ's love,
Pastor Kirsten



AUGUST

Birthdays

5 – Deanna Timm
5 – Keith Batteau
8 – Abbi Lee
9 – Robert Gladwell
10 – Brent Ford-Johnson
10 – Kathryn Harland
12 – Nancy Henke
14 – Craig Schneider
16 – Rebecca Dotson
17 – Kelley Harland
19 – Larry Irwin
21 – Richard Leach
24 – Carol Stalkfleet
30 – Beth Young
31 – Janie Swails

Anniversaries

4 – Neil & Chris Wulf
14 – Ken & Shirley McDaniel
14 – Paul & Ann Mayes
19 – Dan & Shirley Petersen
21 – Craig & Linda Schneider
27 – Robert & Betty McMahon
30 – Travis & Angela Wulf

*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

- Purple Heart Day — August 7, 2021



Ada Kurz, Betty McMahon, Alice Hermann, Bill Halling, Myra Davis, Gloria Surratt, Jay Schackle, Pat Behan, John & Susan Hartung, Catherine Dittmer, Family & loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

The Care & Concern Committee is setting up another get-together at China Garden on Wed., Aug 4 at 11:30. This is for all men and women; everyone pays for their own meal. Shirley McDaniel has a sign-up sheet as reservations are required. Please let Shirley know if you will be attending no later than Sunday, Aug 1. China Garden is located in the strip mall by Fareway in Muscatine. Please contact Shirley at 563-263-8648 or email smcdaniel71@gmail.com.



Dear heavenly Father

Open my eyes, Creator of the universe, that I may see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and

the stars that you have established; open my ears, that I may hear what the heavens are telling me about your glory, which transcends all material bounds and yet deigns to reside with human beings. May I ever marvel at your tender care for us, and give you thanks and praise forever. Amen.—Prayer suggested by Psalms 8 & 19

The power of listening

"The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen," says Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, author and integrative medicine professor. "Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention."

Twice in Mark 4, while teaching, Jesus urges, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen" (verses 9 & 23, NRSV). One way we show what Jesus means to us is by truly listening to his word — not just hearing sounds but being attentive and intentional. Likewise, one way we love and serve others is by respectfully listening to them: not assuming we know what they feel or mean or will say; not planning what to say even as they're still speaking, but listening deeply to learn about them and their experience.

We often think living our faith calls for great accomplishments or worldwide reach. But Remen says, "A loving silence often has ... power to heal and to connect." Don't underestimate something as basic and doable as listening as a way to practice Christlike love.

Forecast: 100% goodness

While Stan Purdum pastored an Ohio church in 1988, the region suffered a major drought. Congregants who were farmers saw their fields — and livelihoods — dry up and die. "I was impressed that they didn't stop attending church and kept giving offerings," he says. "A cynic might respond, 'Well, the farmers don't want to offend God

and cause him to withhold more rain.' But I concluded, 'Look at their remarkable faith.'" During the drought, Purdum gave a sermon about Elijah challenging the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40). "Like Elijah, we need to hold on to our belief in God's goodness," he preached. "God will again send rain on our land. We will continue to pray for it. Perhaps it's too late for this year's crop, and we need to care for the people affected. But we do so while maintaining our faith in God's providence."

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar."—Bradley Miller

"The world goes on because of those who close their lips when they meet hostility from others."—Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

"Prayer is a moment of incarnation — God with us. God involved in the details of my life."—Paul E. Miller

Hit the sack!

Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease, God turns us into helpless sacks of sand once a day.—John Piper



How deep is your faith?

Lyrics to the Bee Gees' 1970s hit song "How Deep Is Your Love" came to mind as I pondered the "depths" of my faith. Sometimes I prefer to stay securely in the shallow end, while other times I fearlessly launch off the diving board, ready and willing to be drenched by God's love. If you've ever tried to coax young swimmers to jump into the deep end of a pool, you may remember their excitement (and relief) after they finally take the plunge into your arms. To experience that joy in your spiritual life, evaluate your location in your own faith "pool." Are you wading safely in the shallows or exploring the freedom of the depths? No matter where you're at, you can jump confidently into Jesus' outstretched arms. From the edge, hear his promises: "Jump in! I'll catch you! I'll keep you safe! Trust me!"—Julie Lee

The miracle of summer

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year. Because kids were reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations. To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bible verse, story or miracle. One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed, "I like the time when everybody loafes and fishes!"

All of me

Late in his life, Salvation Army founder William Booth was asked to explain how and why God had used him so mightily. His response: "God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains

than I, men with greater opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart and the vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was."

averse to all that's good.

A prayer about slowing down

God beyond time ... teach us to pause in this moment, to tuck ourselves into the curve of your slow arm, that we may know the miracle of now, the gift of this moment: you beside and beyond us, welcoming us outside of all we measure, and standing with us in it. May we see the goodness of our still hours and days, sunrises, sunsets, and the darkness where our rest is found.

—Micha Boyett in *A Rhythm of Prayer* (edited by Sarah Bessey)

Saved from ourselves

"I do not do what I want," writes the apostle Paul in frustration, "but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15, ESV). Which of us hasn't felt disappointed in our own actions at some point? For spouting off instead of holding our tongue, turning in a mediocre assignment when we could have done better, turning away from a friend in need because of peer pressure or uncertainty? Inner conflict is part of human nature. Consider part of William Cowper's poem-prayer "The Contrite Heart":

I sometimes think myself inclined
to love Thee if I could;
but often feel another mind,

My best desires are faint and few,
I fain would strive for more;
but when I cry, "My strength renew!"
seem weaker than before.

So what can we do? "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" cries Paul in verse 24. But then his despair turns into a profound "aha!" moment: None of us can rescue ourselves. We are saved, again and again, by divine love and forgiveness. "Thanks be to God," we declare with Paul in verse 24, "through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

A glimpse of grace

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!" (Isaiah 55:1, NIV). I thought of this verse when I read about a seven-acre farm in Atlanta where people can pick fruits and veggies straight off the trees and vines, like a fresh-air produce market but bigger — and all free!

The Food Forest at Browns Mill, located amid a "food desert" in a city where one-fourth of the population experiences food insecurity, offers 2,500 edible and medicinal plants for anyone in need. People take only what they can use, and volunteers harvest extras to distribute in the community. It's one of about 70 free-food forests in the United States. To me, it looks like a glimmer of God's kingdom.

Imagine a world where everyone's basic needs are met: food, clean water, shelter, clothing, health care, education, meaningful work, love — and the fulfillment of assisting

and supporting one another. Isaiah envisions this reality coming true. Sometimes, even in our troubled world, we catch a glimpse of God's abundant grace, tangibly lavished on all. Even better, sometimes we're blessed with the privilege of helping it happen.—Heidi Hyland Mann



Sunday best

Throughout the pandemic, 82-year-old La Verne Ford Wimberly of Tulsa, Oklahoma, donned her Sunday best — emphasis on *best* — to worship online from home every week. The retired educator, who coordinates her colorful outfits and hats (she owns at least 50!), didn't want to "get in the habit of just slouching around" during lockdown.

To uplift fellow church members, Wimberly posted weekly selfies and encouraging words. The goal, she says, was to let people know "that if we continue to believe in ourselves, network together, trust in God, keep the faith, then we will be okay." Though Wimberly's style is impeccable, friends say she's even more beautiful on the inside. Her fashion sense "is merely an outer expression of her inner wisdom, wit and grace," says her pastor, Ray Owens. Church staffer Robin Watkins concurs, saying Wimberly's "heart is as beautiful as each outfit she has shared with us."

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

- A. Esther
- B. Jael
- C. Vashti
- D. Milcah

Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)

Friends with binoculars

At a beautiful outdoor wedding reception in the Colorado foothills, a group of us noticed a family of black bears on the next hill. We were so excited because we'd never seen them in the wild! When some friends grabbed binoculars from their car, however, we realized the creatures were merely grazing cows.

Now I tell this story whenever I'm asked what exciting wildlife I've encountered in the mountains. It gets a good laugh but also reminds me that I desperately need friends with binoculars. Instead of surrounding myself with people who automatically agree with me and don't challenge my perceptions, I need friends in my life who search with me for answers, accuracy and truth. Let's all be on the "lookout" for friends with binoculars!
—Janna Firestone

Christian symbol

LION—A lion represents watchfulness and alertness. It also symbolizes Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:4-5). A winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark, whose gospel focuses on Jesus' royalty and resurrection.



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.

Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.

1. ___ bear	9. ___ monkey	A. fry	I. hatchling
2. ___ frog	10. ___ platypus	B. fawn	K. foal
3. ___ owl	11. ___ alligator	C. gosling	L. owlet
4. ___ horse	12. ___ giraffe	D. cub	M. puggle
5. ___ kangaroo	13. ___ goose	E. kid	N. joey
6. ___ deer	14. ___ swan	F. cygnet	O. polliwog
7. ___ goat	15. ___ dog	G. infant	P. puppy
8. ___ fish		H. calf	

"_on't let any_ne _oo_ down o_ you _ecaus_
you _re youn_, but set an exa_ple for the bel_evers
in spec_, in _onduct, in love, in _aith and in _urity."
1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D, O, L, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P



FAITHFUL ; followers

Play these fun variations
on Follow the Leader —
and remember to
follow Jesus
wherever you go!

What you need:

- Bean bags
- Tables, chairs,
pillows
- Painter's tape

What you do:

Players line up behind the Leader, who moves around in various ways. Followers must copy the Leader's movements faithfully. Try these variations:

1. Players must balance a bean bag on their head as they follow the Leader.
2. Set up an obstacle course, and follow the Leader by crawling under tables and chairs, hopping over pillows and so on.
3. With tape, make zigzags and curves on the floor. Then follow the Leader as if walking on a tightrope.
4. The Leader designates types of terrain to imagine, such as mud, snow, ice and a mountain.
5. Also try animal movements, mirrored movements and dancing movements.

Come listen to the music ministry of



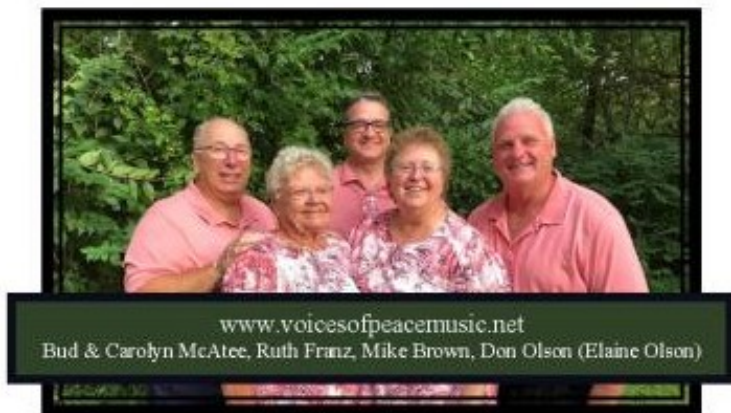
Voices of Peace
Southern Gospel Music Ministry

Voices of Peace, a Southern Gospel group, from Potter, WI, will be at

New Era Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 29, 2021
10:30 a.m. during worship

The group: Bud McAtee, from Brillion, lead guitar, lead vocal harmony, his wife Carolyn McAtee, lead and harmony vocal, Ruth Franz, from Manitowoc, on keyboard, Mike Brown, from Chilton, bass vocal. On occasion, Don Olson, from Crivitz, rhythm guitar and his wife Elaine Olson, on sound check and product table.

Over the past 2 decades, God has blessed them with a medley of opportunities to share the gospel through music at numerous church denominations, concerts, and Gospel Fests throughout the Midwest as well as a mission outreach in Alaska, local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and County Fairs. They host one of the biggest Gospel Fests in the State of Wisconsin, which is held the third Friday and following Saturday in August, at the Hilbert Civic Park in Hilbert, WI. Don't miss this concert.





A love offering will be taken to support
their ministry.

A potluck will be held after worship. A
sign-up sheet for salads, vegetables,
desserts will be available at the back of the
church. Meat will be furnished.

August 2021

July '21							September '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3  COUNCIL MEETING 6:00:00 PM	4 11:30 - Care & Concern meet at China Garden**	5	6	7 Purple Heart Day
8 10:30 am - Worship Service	9	10  9 am - Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome	11	12	13	14
Pastor Kirsten Lee - Vacation - Aug 9-11						
15 10:30 am - Worship Service	16	17	18	19	20	21
Pastor Kirsten Lee - Vacation - Aug 16 - 22						
22 10:30 am - Worship Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 am - VOICES OF PEACE Potluck following worship	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	**Aug 4 - Care & Concern meet at China Garden - This is for men and women; everyone pays for their own meal. Shirley McDaniel (563-263-8648 or smcdaniel71@gmail.com) has a signup sheet - reservations are required. Please sign up by Sun., Aug 1. Aug 29 - Voices of Peace will perform during worship. Potluck to follow.				