



New Era Lutheran Church

September 2021 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
405-248-0586

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

Contacts:

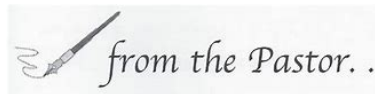
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Building Rental –
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Bulletin & Newsletter– Joan Dietrich
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Bulletin - Items due by Wednesday night
each week
Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
month

Check us out at www.neweralutheran.com
or [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)
[NewEraLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)



*"so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55*

Welcome to another school year! It is my deep hope and prayer this year is kind and gracious to our students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and parents. Please see a special blessing for students also in this newsletter.

As the school year begins, it can be a good time to revitalize our own faith formation, both at home and within your faith community. New Era will once again offer Sunday school for all ages Sunday morning before worship at 9:30 am. The kickoff Sunday will occur September 12th when everyone is invited to join together for our "God's work. Our hands" Sunday. On this Sunday, we will create outreach packets to send to our brothers and sisters in Christ who cannot attend in-person worship.

There are important pieces that all ages can help with to share love and care with these members we miss.

It is an exciting time at New Era as we gather together this fall. There is renewed energy surrounding our faith formation, our worship services, and our fellowship time. This energy and excitement offer us hope as we keep

looking forward as the pandemic continues. I see you, Holy Spirit, as we open our Bibles, sit with neighbors for shared learning and growth.

I hear you, Holy Spirit, in the laughter and excitement as children tell us all about their week at school and what they learned about in Sunday School. Our time together on Sunday mornings is beautiful, exciting, and very holy. Come, and see for yourself!

This fall can also be a great time to renew your intentions on your faith growth at home. As with any new endeavors, you can begin small and always grow from where you begin. If you're interested in reading a few Bible passages every day, you might consider reading Luke and Acts as a whole as they are both written by Luke. The stories of the early Christians provide insight and challenges for us as we seek to live as Christ followers. Galatians or Ephesians might be a good place to begin. Stories in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament offer compelling characters who seek to live by God's call. You might consider I and II Kings, Jonah, or Ruth. If you're looking for a book to read on your own that helps you reflect on faith, here are a few ideas:

Learning To Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor

With Open Hands, or In the Name of Jesus by Henri Nouwen

Searching For Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans

Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, & Fairy Tale by Frederick Buechner

Lastly, we will resume an adult Bibles study on Monday evenings in October at Gloria Dei. We will focus our time together on one or a

few stories in the Bible and learn together what God might be teaching us through these dynamic stories.

What I love about Bible studies is that we all approach the Bible as equal teachers and learners. We all bring our own stories and experiences which shape our perspective and interpretation. If we keep an open mind, we stand to learn and grow deeper in our relationship with Christ.

In the Isaiah passage above, God promises to speak God's word to you in a way that is meant for you. When we spend time reading the Bible or a book that challenges us to reflect on our lives as Christ followers, God speaks to you and trusts that God's word will not return empty. The Holy Spirit works through you to receive God's word and share God's word in a way that only you can. You, dear child in Christ, are loved and cared for by God who persistently speaks to you in new and surprising ways. Let's find out how God is surprising you, loving you, and challenging you as we walk together.

In Christ,

Pastor Kirsten Lee



Ada Kurz, Bill Halling, Jay Schackle, John & Susan Hartung, Catherine Dittmer, Family & loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

This blessing goes with you on the bus,
in your classroom, to recess and lunch,
when you're surrounded by friends
and when you're by yourself.
This blessing unfolds around you
like a tent, complete with your
favorite blanket and pillow,
so you are sheltered and comforted
wherever you are.
This blessing whispers
when you're scared:
"God loves you and you are not alone."
This blessing is wide enough
to share with the whole world.
It's like the biggest box of crayons,
holding all those incredible colors,
with all their amazing names,
and delighting in each one.
This blessing delights in YOU.
It calls you by name,
pronounces your name just right,
and then gives you one more name
to claim as your own:
BELOVED.
Beloved child of God,
this blessing supplies you with
all that you need to BE LOVE
at school and at home
and everywhere in between.
This blessing is for you, child of God,
today and forever.
Amen.

Shirley Nelson Carlson



September

Birthdays

1 – Janet Kindler
5 – Matt Kurz
5 – Tom Kindler
9 – Mila Probasco
13 – Becki Petersen
13 – Paul Mayes
15 – Dennis Weih
16 – Ann Mayes
16 – Dianna Burger
22 – Ken McDaniel

Anniversaries

17 – Chris & Angie Markham
30 – Gary & Maureen Ruser

*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

- Sept 5th - The Sturgeons share about Africa during fellowship
- Sept 6 - Labor Day
- Sept 11 - Patriot Day
- Sept 12 - Sunday School Rally Kick off for all ages. *"God's work. Our Hands Sunday"*
- Sept 12 - National Grandparents Day
- Sept 19 - Sunday School begins at 9:30 for all ages.
- Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2021
- Sept 22 - First day of autumn
- Sept 20-21: Pastor Kirsten away at Fall Theological Conference in Des Moines.



*The Sturgeons will share about
their time in Africa during
fellowship time after worship on
Sunday, September 5th.*

September

*Ushers – Alice & Mike Hermann,
Betty McMahon
Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox*

Readers

9/5 Lynne Leacox
9/12 Shirley Petersen
9/19 Paul Mayes
9/26 Joyce Rudbeck

Flowers

Gloria Batteau
Vicki Hampton
Joyce Rudbeck

After Worship Hostesses

9/5 – Janet Kindler, Lynne Leacox
9/12 – Vicki Hampton, Ann Mayes
9/19 – Joyce Rudbeck, Shirley McDaniel
9/26 – Betty McMahon



There are many devastating crises occurring around our country and world right now. As a Christian, we

bring our prayers to God and find ways to live out our faith. One effective way to help is to donate to Lutheran Disaster Response.

"Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need." Lutheran Disaster Response always works with local congregations, non-profits, and leaders to deliver aid that is the most impactful for the hurting community. They are a welcome partner because they respect the perspectives and strengths of the local leaders.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

If you would like to share in relief efforts, there are a few ways to give:

By mail: Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

By phone: 800-638-3522

Online: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

Through New Era offering: Checks can be placed in the offering bucket with "Lutheran Disaster Response" on the Memo line.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Aug 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order with Pastor Kirstin, Gloria, Joyce, Dick, Adam, Eric, Josiah, and Vicki attending. Vicki gave devotions.

Last month's minutes were read and approved. Eric gave the treasurer's report. Account information updated for security and access.

The mission giving to the Sturgeon family was discussed, and a motion to halt giving at the present time was made by Dick and seconded by Gloria. Cash Sturgeon will speak with the church on September 5 to update their mission work.

Care & Concern – Gloria reported on visiting members at care facilities and sending cards to stay in touch.

Property – Dick reported on general upkeep of the property. A call will be made to repair water lines in gym basement.

Music & Worship – Usually choir begins in September. At this time, early August, that is to be determined with the Covid status.

Fellowship/Outreach/Stewardship –

Voices of Peace – will be at New Era on August 29 for music ministry. Lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Coupon Books – A call will be made to see if they are available this fall.

Dinner Theater – is in the planning for 2022.

Giving Meeting – A committee is being formed with a meeting held in September. If you have questions or interest, please notify Pastor.

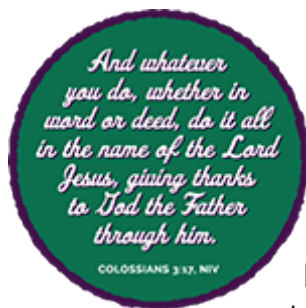
CDC Recommendations – For safety of the members, Pastor will be receiving current recommendations and giving notice as necessary. Communion will be available with individual servings in our seats at Worship or contact Pastor for a communion time with her.

After Church Fellowship – Began first Sunday in July. Sign-up sheets available.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Hampton

Laboring for the Lord



For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office

— or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.”

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. “Whatever your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.”

God languishes with us

A headline from last spring teased, “There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling.” The writer decided what he and others felt as the pandemic wore on wasn’t burnout or depression but languishing — decreasing vitality; feeling dispirited. People of ancient times experienced this too: “The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine” (Genesis 47:13). “The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh” (Isaiah 24:7). But there’s more.

If you used to be “merry-hearted” but now sigh a lot, hear this: “The heavens languish together with the earth” (Isaiah 24:4). Isaiah uses “the heavens” to refer to God, who languishes with us. Like an empathizing friend, God sits with us in our struggle. Sure, we pray for rescue now: “I am languishing; O Lord, heal me” (Psalm 6:2). But when our timing isn’t God’s, we trust his promise of restoration: “[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes ... mourning and crying and pain will be no more” (Revelation 21:4).

With the psalmist we hold two truths at once: “My soul languishes for your salvation; I hope in your word” (119:81).

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Learn from leaves

As you’re enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: “Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.”

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control,

commitments that no longer bring joy,
personal expectations that cause added stress,
a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past
as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to
abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let
go of what weighs us down and gets in the way
of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a
season of change and see just how beautiful it
is to let things go!—Janna Firestone

"Keep some room in your heart for the
unimaginable."—Mary Oliver

"Education is not the filling of a pail but
the lighting of a fire."—William Butler

Yeats

"If you want the peace that passes
understanding, you're going to have to give
up your right to understanding. It's called
trust."—Bill Johnson

Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways,
sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.
And some take years to fully unfold the harvest
of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms,
sometimes in sunlight,
sometimes through storms.
some blossom early, and
some blossom late,
but each one will flower —
have faith and wait!
—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

A cheerful what?

Guideposts editor Mary Ann O'Roark recalls
hearing the phrase "cheerful liver" so often in
church as a girl that she asked her
grandmother what a liver is. "It's a part inside
you, like your stomach or your heart," Grandma
replied.

Rather confused, O'Roark tried to figure out
how to be cheerful from the inside out. Then
during Sunday school one week, a classmate
explained that God loves a cheerful *giver*, not
liver. Years later, however, O'Roark realized that
her younger self wasn't too far off the mark.
After all, God does indeed love someone
who *lives* cheerfully, spreading the hope and
joy that he longs for all people to know!

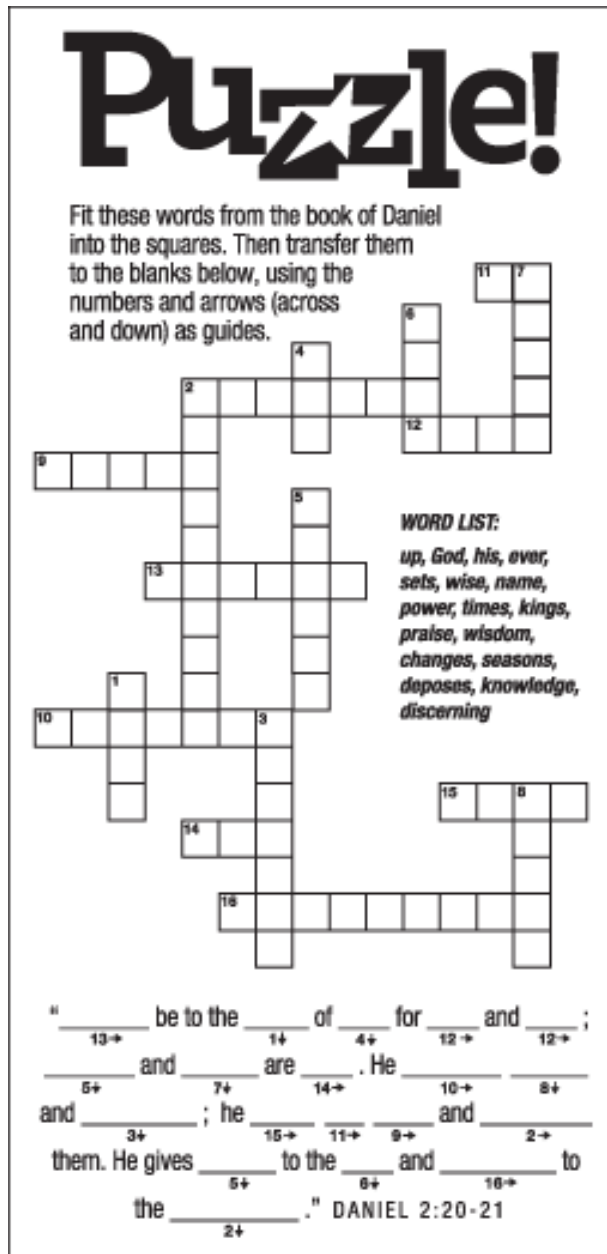
After all, it was Jesus who said, "I came that [all]
may have life, and have it abundantly" (John
10:10, NRSV).

Be still (and silent)

We need to find God, and he cannot be found
in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of
silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass
— grow in silence; see the stars, the moon, the
sun, how they move in silence. ... The more we
receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in
our active life. We need silence to be able to
touch souls. The essential thing is not what we
say, but what God says to us and through us.
All our words will be useless unless they come
from within — words which do not give the
light of Christ increase the darkness.—Mother
Teresa

Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.



September 29. While Gabriel is probably the best-known angel for announcing to Mary that she would bear the Son of God, “the archangel Michael” is named in Jude 9; in Daniel 12:1 he is called “Michael, the great prince, the protector of [the] people”; and in Revelation 12:7 we read of “Michael and his angels.” In each case, Michael is involved in a cosmic battle revealed to someone in a vision as a message from God.

In fact, whenever angels appear in Scripture, the Hebrew word is “messenger,” which in Greek is *angelos* — thus, the English “angel.” The Bible doesn’t say much about what angels looked like, but surely they weren’t the cute cherubs of modern pop art. Given their most common greeting, “Do not be afraid,” it must have been startling to see one.

Why celebrate Michael and All Angels? First, it reminds us there is more to God’s realm than we humans can see or comprehend. No matter the exact structure or appearance of angels, God sometimes uses them to communicate with us. Second, by broadening our understanding we can serve as angels ourselves: *messengers* of God’s love and grace to the world.

Running toward the goal

“Disciplined runners consistently clear their heads and focus fully on the journey ahead because their passion and zeal for the goal [supersede] the strain,” writes Bible teacher Priscilla Shirer. “The goal beckons them onward. Passion doesn’t negate weariness; it just resolves to press beyond it.”

Michael and All Angels

Many Christian denominations celebrate the festival of Michael and All Angels on

Power in weakness

In the late 1970s, Henry Smith was struggling to find work after finishing his education. He

also lived with a degenerative disease that caused him to become legally blind. But one day he heard a pastor explain that Jesus became poor so we might become rich through him. This idea inspired Smith to craft a song of thanks for God's gift of Jesus. Though Smith wrote more than 300 songs, only this one became widely known (sometimes labeled "author unknown" or misattributed, but finally rightfully credited to him).

"Give thanks with a grateful heart," the song begins exuberantly. One of its most poignant lines urges, "Let the weak say, I am strong ... because of what the Lord has done for us." Across two millennia, Smith's words and faith echo the apostle Paul: "[The Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV).

Bible Quiz



How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times

Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

Our help — past, present and future

This month, America marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life forever for millions more. The nation was

shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of us any assumption that "it can't happen here." September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of "liberty and justice for all" served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalm 46 reminds us that "though the earth should change" (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (v. 3). We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

How have God's presence and power sustained you through life's changes? How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Promises on hand

Audrey Penn's book *The Kissing Hand* features a young raccoon who's nervous about the first day of school. Mom consoles him by kissing his palm, signifying her presence with him. The youngster can simply put his hand to his face any time he needs a kiss from her. If that isn't tear-jerking enough, as the raccoon scampers to school, he returns to kiss Mom's hand so she'll have a Kissing Hand too.

That story reminds me of Matthew 28:20, when Jesus promises to be with us always, and of Psalm 23:4, which says, "I will fear no evil; for thou art with me" (KJV). God gives us a Kissing Hand through baptism, sealing us forever with the Holy Spirit and the mark of the cross of Christ.

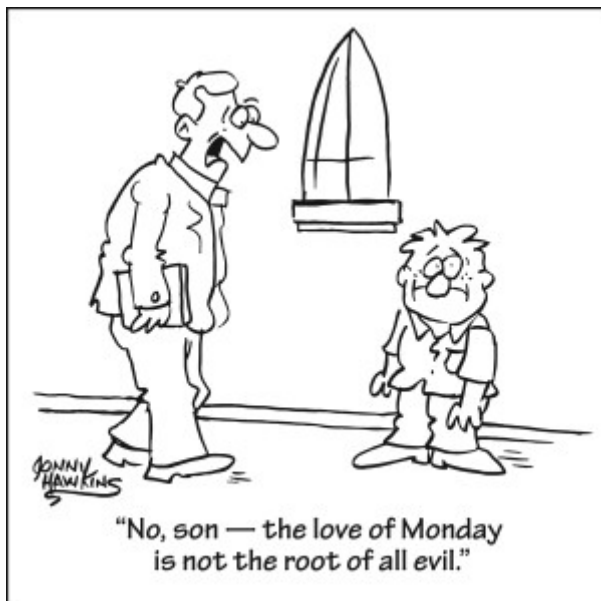
Just as the raccoons cherish their kissing hands, may we cherish the promise of our Father's eternal presence. Thanks be to God, whose "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6).—Julie Lee

Christian symbol



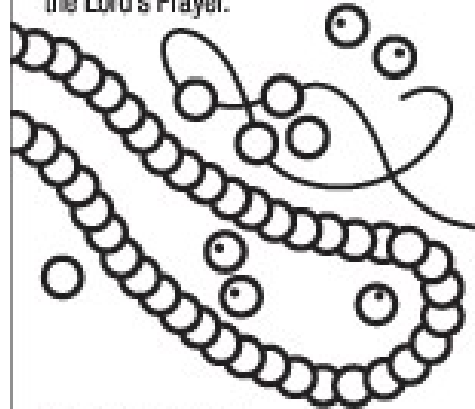
ARK OF THE COVENANT—For the Israelites, the Ark of the Covenant was at the center of worship. It contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of

manna and Aaron's rod. In the Old Testament, the ark was a visible representation of God's throne, or presence, on earth, where he communed with Moses and the high priests. It also represents our earthly bodies, where the Holy Spirit dwells.



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver



7/10/2021

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Dear Friends,

We appreciate you thinking of us! Thank you for your in-kind donation of box fans, toiletries, house hold items, towels, wash rags and coffee.

MCSA is thankful for your support. In-kind gifts from the community help us to re-direct our financial resources toward maintaining and expanding supportive and educational programming for those in need in Muscatine County.

We are pleased to accept your contribution and will use this gift wisely in support of those staying at MCSA.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Leirness

Jennifer Leirness
Resource Development Officer

As required by the IRS we must state, "No goods or services were received by you for making a contribution to MCSA, tax exempt #42-1367973."



FOR THE WORD OF GOD
AND THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST
5712 67TH AVENUE WEST • MUSCATINE, IA 52761

fruitlandchurch
fruitlandbministry@gmail.com
563-263-1855

From Your Friends At Fruitland Baptist Church:

Please know you are welcome and invited to this event on September 24th and 25th. Even though it is geared for men, it is a family event and we hope to see you whether you bring something to exhibit or just to look and enjoy and grow in Christ. For additional information please contact me at 563-571-2063.

In Christ,

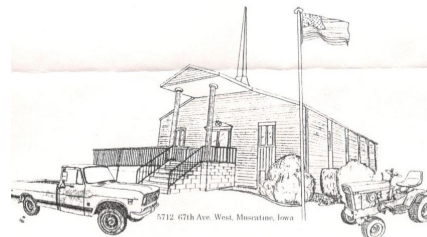
John Brown

Pastor John Brown

Gearheads and Gospel F.B.C.

Fruitland Baptist Church Men's Retreat

Fruitland Baptist Church
5712 67th Avenue West • Muscatine, Iowa



September
24th & 25th
2021

CAR, TRUCK & TRACTOR SHOW

Saturday 8am-4pm

Bring Your Classic Cars, Trucks, Tractors, - If It Has Wheels, We Want To See It!

- Guest Speakers: Gospel Preaching - Equipment Seminars -
- Garden Tractor Plow Day - Luncheon Served -
- All **FREE** Family Friendly Events!

Fri. Sept 24 • 4pm - 8pm

Retreat begins - 4pm / Guest Speaker - 7pm

Sat. Sept 25 • 8am - 4pm

Car, Truck & Tractor Show - 8am-4pm

Seminars - 10-11am / Speaker - 11-12am

Garden Tractor Plow Day - 1:15-4pm

- Pastor John Brown -

fruitlandbministry@gmail.com • fruitland.church

563-263-1855 • 563-571-2063 cell

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." - Proverbs 27:17 (E)



Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center

Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Pre-Bid Online: Sept. 13-17, 2021

<https://charityauction.bid/EwaluQuiltAuction>

Live Auction at Ewalu: Sat., Sept. 18, 2021



Join us for live music, hayrides, local food & fellowship!

September 13, 2021

12:00 p.m. Bidding Begins Online

September 18, 2021 (On-site at Camp Ewalu)

9:00 a.m. Quilt Review & Country Store Opens

11:00 a.m. Devotional Service

12:00 p.m. Freewill Lunch

1:00 p.m. Quilt Bidding Resumes at Ewalu

September 17, 2021

7:00 p.m. Online Bidding Closes










37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA 563-933-4700 www.ewalu.org

free admission located 3 miles west of Strawberry Point on Hwy 3

September 2021



| August '21 | | | | | | | October '21 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|--------|--|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:30 am - Worship Service The Sturgeon family will share their time in Africa during Worship. | 6  LABOR DAY | 7 | 8 9:30 am - Care & Concern meet at McDonald's | 9 | 10 | 11  <i>Patricia's Day</i> |
| 12  9:30 am - Sunday School Rally Day  10:30 am - Worship Service | 13 | 14  9 am - Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service | 20-21 Sept 20-21 Pr Kirsten away at Fall Theological Conference in Des Moines | | 22  | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service | 27 | 28  | 29 | 30  | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | | | | | |