



## New Era Lutheran Church

### November 2021 Newsletter

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**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:**

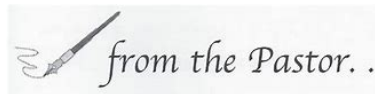
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Bulletin - Items due by Wednesday night  
each week  
Newsletter Items due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the  
month

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*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,<sup>[a]</sup> and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12: 1-2)*

Dear beloved ones in Christ,

At the beginning of this month, we honor the promise of our sainthood on All Saints Sunday. We remember and honor that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses and that these witnesses include the saints who have gone before us in Christ’s eternal kingdom and the saints who live among us on earth. You are surrounded day and night with the care of these witnesses and their witness of how Christ is sharing his love to you.

You are both a receiver of grace in this cloud of witnesses and a means of grace in this cloud of witnesses as you yourself are both equally sinner and saint. Your faith is a witness to those around you of Christ’s living presence here on earth. So, what does this cloud of witnesses mean in our daily life as we “run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”?

As we've experienced during this pandemic, we are not alone in this journey to Christ's cross. We are connected through the Holy Spirit as the Body of Christ. Because Christ has already guaranteed our salvation through his victory over death, we can live for the sake of this world and our life as community here on earth. We are liberated to trust what the book of Revelation (21:3) promises to us: "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them."

We share this good news of our eternal life in Christ through the ways we live for one another with self-giving love. How we steward or care for the gifts God gives us is how we share our faith and hope in the good news of Christ and our faith that we are a part of this cloud of witnesses. When we give of ourselves and our money to New Era we are trusting that our time and money continues to witness to God's mission in our congregation. We can trust that our gifts go beyond our limitations when they are combined with the gifts of others. We can trust that the Holy Spirit gives us joy as we give because the Spirit can use all gifts to care for our neighbors and our world.

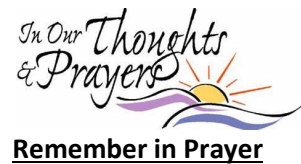
New Era parishioners continue to give exceptionally. I am impressed with the amount we contribute toward benevolence and the many ways New Era parishioners step forward to lead and serve. Our faith in Christ and our faith in our cloud of witnesses is made known in the ways we share of ourselves and our financial resources. As we live out this faith, how is God leading us to be a means of grace for our community? These are not my answers to give, but our wonderings and ideas to share together. Consider how our benevolence fund began because one person had an idea on how the congregation could provide help when help was needed. In my

time as your pastor, I have seen this benevolence fund be a gift of grace. Consider how one person wondered if the congregation was giving to our fullest potential. This wondering is leading us to more intentional practices of annual giving.

As we live in this great cloud of witnesses, I pray for the Holy Spirit to encourage you and fill you with joy and abundance as you share the gifts Christ has given you.

With gratitude for you and the ways you share Christ's love,

Pastor Kirsten



*Matt Kurz, Amy Wilson, Kay Ely, June Weber, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Alice Hermann, Nathan Hadley, Jay Schackle, Catherine Dittmer, family & loved ones of Kenny Parish and family and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.*

*Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Paul Kemper who passed Monday, October 18 and Buzzy Ely who passed away on Sunday, Oct. 24.*

#### **Special dates**

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2021
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 7, 2021
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2021
- Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021
- First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021

# NOVEMBER



## Birthdays

1 – Chris Wulf  
1 – Rhonda Wittmer  
5 – Carolyn Leach  
10 – Bjorn Thoren  
13 – Gary Petersen  
17 – Bill Turner  
17 – Gabriella Markham  
20 – Kimberly Turner  
24 – Nick Thoren  
29 – Wren Wulf  
30 – Phyllis Beck  
30 – Rachel Turner

## Anniversaries

11 – Tom & Janet Kindler  
20 – Chris & Kirsten Lee  
21 – Jim & Rhonda Wittmer

*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!*

## November

*Ushers – Paul & Ann Mayes*

*Alter Guild – Shirley Petersen*

### Readers

### Flowers

11/7	Paul Mayes	Lynn Bendt
11/14	Shirley Petersen	
11/21	Dan Petersen	
11/28	Joyce Rudbeck	Joyce Rudbeck

### Fellowship Hostesses

11/7	Lynn Bendt, Lynne Leacox
11/14	Senior Dinner
11/21	Lynne Leacox, Shirley McDaniel
11/28	Janet Kindler, Gloria Batteau

*Dear New Era,*

*You are all a great blessing in my life. I treasure my time serving as your pastor. Thank you for the flowers, the coupon book, the plaque, and the many ways you share Christ's love.*

*God bless you all, Pastor Kirsten*



New Era enjoyed the music from the Muscatine acapella group "Heartland Harmany" on Sunday, Oct. 24.

## **New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm. Attending were Pastor Kirstin, Joyce, Adam, Dick, Gloria, Josiah, and Vicki. Pastor opened with a devotion.

Minutes – Minutes were read and approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report – Eric reviewed and discussed the current treasurer's reports. The reports were approved.

Property – Dick reported the ceiling fans in the church were checked and now running back to normal. Dirt work is being done on the north side of property. This work was approved in the 2019

Annual Meeting and voted on. It was delayed during Covid.

Some storm windows on the church were reported being cracked and/or broken on the east and west sides. They also appear to be quite weathered and in need of repairs. Bids will be taken and brought to the Council.

Cleaning of the gym basement and church basement was discussed. Council is looking into having a service company make bids and/or have a clean-out day with church members.

Care & Concern – Gloria reported on being in touch with members unable to attend church.

Worship & Music – It was reported by Pastor new advent wreath had been ordered.

On October 24, a men's musical group, Heartland Harmony, will be with us during church to share their music of praise.

On October 31 – Reformation Sunday, Pastor Dan Kuckuck from the Synod office of the Bishop will lead worship.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is all Saints Day.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 pm.

Advent – It was discussed during Advent services New Era would have soup suppers before service. More information to follow.

The vice president position was open since past election at Annual Meeting. Adam was nominated by Dick; Gloria seconded the motion. Discussion was held and voted Adam to hold that office.

The meeting was closed by saying the Lord's Prayer. Next Council Meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Hampton

## Where do you live?

A man who resided near the border of two states had been told for years his house was in Minnesota. But when a new survey revealed that he actually lived in Wisconsin, he proclaimed, "Thank goodness! I never could bear those cold Minnesota winters."



Defining where we live certainly affects our attitude. Followers of Jesus, or saints, consider their true home to be in God's dynamic presence. St. Paul was so connected to God through prayer that mystical experiences left him not knowing whether he was in or out of his body (see 2 Corinthians 12:1-10). Living with one foot in heaven and the other on the way there, Paul could know peace. "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's," he concludes (Romans 14:8). Christian saints who are still living on earth can rest assured: Our true home is always with the Lord.

## The subversive table

"The Lord's Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants," writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. "The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where 'there shall be no difference between them and the rest.'" Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom "them" refers to "the wicked and the righteous."



In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through Christ's body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn't like him. But at



the Lord's table, though "divided in the larger world," we shared a sacrament with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another's rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God's kingdom subverting the world's tendency to divide.  
—Heidi Hyland Mann

*"The more you recognize and express gratitude for the things you have, the more things you will have to express gratitude for."—Zig Ziglar*

\* \* \*

*"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water: It will make ripples throughout the entire pond."  
—Jessy and Bryan Matteo*

## Honoring our veterans

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

## Thankfulness in action

Thanksgiving is a spiritual exercise, necessary to the building of a healthy soul. It takes us out

of the stuffiness of ourselves into the fresh breeze and sunlight of the will of God. —  
Elisabeth Elliot, *Keep a Quiet Heart*

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven.—Johannes Gaertner

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.—Maya Angelou

## A gratitude game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combination. When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we're thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!—Janna Firestone

## Time to double down

After you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the Devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation and good deeds. For if Satan's temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, he'll have an incentive to leave you alone.

## Puzzle!

Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

**Puzzle!**

Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

David & _____	2 Samuel 15:37
King Agrippa & _____	Acts 25:13
Naomi & _____	Ruth 1:22
Paul & _____	Acts 16:25
Joshua & _____	Numbers 14:6
Peter & _____	Luke 5:8-10
Job & _____	Job 2:11
Elijah & _____	2 Kings 2:1-14
Zophar & _____	Job 2:11
Jonathan & _____	1 Samuel 18:1
Peter & _____	Luke 5:8-10
Jesus & _____	John 11:20
Jesus & _____	John 11:5
Timothy & _____	2 Timothy 1:1
Jesus & _____	John 11:5
Mary & _____	Luke 1:39-40
Job & _____	Job 2:11
Aaron & _____	Exodus 4:27

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

PROVERBS 17:17a

Answer: Hushai, Festus, Ruth, Silas, Caleb, John, Bilad, Elisba, Eliphaz, Moses, A friend loves at all times.

## A new Thanksgiving tradition

At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren't present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing notes of thanks to people you appreciate.

Follow Paul's model of starting letters with thanksgiving: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:8, NIV). Notice how he thanks his addressees by thanking God for them. Paul is specific too, not writing, "Thanks for everything!"

Expressing genuine thanksgiving to God and another person, you might write something like this:

*Dear Judy, This Thanksgiving I'm thinking about special people in my life. You are one! I thank God for our friendship, for your strong witness for Jesus and for your willingness to lend a hand as a substitute teacher. (Your chocolate cookies are icing on the cake!) I praise God for you! Sincerely, Joan*

## Paradoxes of Christian virtues

In *Reaching for the Invisible God*, Philip Yancey says each virtue in 1 Corinthians 13:13 "enfolds a paradox." Faith "will always mean believing in what cannot be proven, committing to that of which we can never be sure." Hope isn't "the fuel that keeps a person going" but what "emerges from the struggle, a byproduct of faithfulness." And love — "the greatest" virtue — is very counterintuitive. "Love involves caring about people most of us would prefer not to care about," writes Yancey. "By nature we keep records, right wrongs, and demand our rights; love does not."

## A blessing or a curse?

Holocaust survivor and devout Christian Corrie ten Boom recounts how her sister Betsie thanked God for the fleas infesting their packed barracks. When Corrie resisted the idea,

Betsie pointed out that 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to “give thanks in all circumstances.” Still, Corrie wasn’t convinced — until the sisters realized the infestation kept the guards away, giving prisoners in those quarters freedom to worship and pray. The biting pests, which seemed like added misery, became a blessing.

Anger and bitterness sometimes cloud our vision, causing us to forget to thank God *in* all situations, though not necessarily *for* them. Other times we don’t wait long enough for blessings to be revealed. But faith is like waiting through a storm, knowing a rainbow is coming eventually. Meanwhile, the Lord holds an umbrella for us, and the closer with him we walk, the less wet we’ll get.—Julie Lee

## Bible Quiz



Naaman, the commander of the Aramean army, had leprosy. Who told his wife about a prophet in Samaria who might be able to cure Naaman? And who was that prophet?

- A. the king of Aram; Elijah
- B. Naaman’s wife’s sister; Isaiah
- C. an Israelite servant girl; Elisha
- D. a visiting emissary from Israel; Jeremiah

Answer: C (See 2 Kings 5:2-3, 8-10.)

## The journey begins at Advent

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus’ life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and

continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

“Like a great waterwheel,” writes Joan Chittister, “the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime.”

For laughs (or groans!) around your table:

*Knock knock. Who’s there? Arthur.  
Arthur who? Arthur any leftovers?*

*Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive?  
It had 24 carrots.*

*If you use boxed mashed potatoes ...  
... Great-Grandma will turn over in her gravy.*

*My family said, “No more Thanksgiving jokes.”  
... but I said I couldn’t just quit cold turkey.*

## Christian symbol

**CORNUCOPIA**—Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning “horn of plenty,” has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.



**PUZZLE**

**GOD'S WILL**

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

*Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.*

e o r j  
7 2 4 1 6 3 5

w y l a s a  
3 5 2 4 6 1

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

continually,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

in all circumstances; for this  
is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

h n t a s k  
2 4 1 3 6 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

**PRAISE-FILLED  
petals**

Create an interactive display  
of God's provision for a  
Thanksgiving centerpiece.

He is my Rock  
God is Great!  
Praise Him  
Praise God that He is love

**What you need:**

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

**What you do:**

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.



## Recipe Corner

### Sausage Kale Soup (light version)

Prep: 10 min, Cook 25 min., 7 servings

- ¾ C chopped onion
- 1 chopped jalapeno pepper (optional)
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 T olive oil
- 4 C reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 3 medium potatoes peeled and cubed
- ¼ t salt
- ¼ t pepper
- 1 lb fresh kale, trimmed and chopped

1 can (15 oz) white kidney or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

















½ lb reduced-fat fully cooked Polish sausage or turkey kielbasa sliced

In large saucepan or Dutch oven, sauté onion, jalapeno, and garlic in oil until tender. Add broth, potatoes, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Using a potato masher, mash potatoes slightly. Add kale, beans, and sausage. Cook over medium-low heat until kale is tender. Optional – crumbled cooked bacon on top.



# November 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31  9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	1  ALL SAINTS' DAY	2	3	4	5	6
Pastor Kirsten @ Continuing Education Retreat						
7  9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	8	9  9 am - group n church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome	10 9:00 am - Care & Concern, meet at McDonald's  6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	11  VETERANS DAY	12	13
14  SENIORS Dinner after Worship 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	15	16	17 Lunch @ China Garden  6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	18	19	20
21  CHRIST the King SUNDAY  9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	22	23  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24	25  Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28  1st SUNDAY @ Advent 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	29	30  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	1 Midweek Services begin - more info to follow	2  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3	4
5	6  NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK Nov 21-28, 2021					