



New Era Lutheran Church

October 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

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Organist: Mary Maxson
Choir Director: Lavonne Schrum

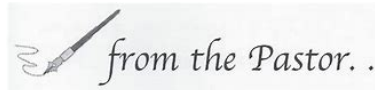
Building Rental –

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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

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Dear friend in Christ,

During the month of September, I was called for jury duty. I wasn't called to be a juror, but I did spend a day and a half being questioned by the lawyers as they assessed my "juror potential". As I listened to the lawyers questioning the potential jurors, it occurred to me that a jury is only a jury if each person is working together as a team. Every single person in the courtroom depends on the jury to be the most effective team possible. There's not one person who is dispensable because each person is vitally important and necessary all the while also being their own unique self.

So it is with the Body of Christ. Paul writes in 1st Corinthians 12 that we are all baptized into one body with Christ as the head. Each of us is given gifts from the Holy Spirit and is given the Holy Spirit for the common good. We can only be the Body of Christ God intended when we are a team working toward the common good of sharing the Gospel in our congregation, community, and world. Whether you are 5, 15, 50, or 100, you are vitally important and play an important role in the life of this congregation.

During the last council meeting, I was reminded that the benevolent fund began because one person had an idea and shared this idea with the congregation. In the time since, the benevolent fund has assisted people connected to the church with various needs. Through the generosity and teamwork of the Body of Christ at New Era, this idea has provided assistance that is lifegiving and grace filled.

I have seen additional examples of the Body of Christ working together as a team at New Era Lutheran. During September, we began in-person Sunday School. This is all done through the gifted and caring leaders of New Era since I am away at Gloria Dei during this time. No matter your age, there is a place for you to learn something new about God, share your wonderings, and grow in faith.

Another example during the month of September is the gathering of the stewardship/giving team (still working on a name for the group). We gathered to discuss how best to steward or care for the surplus in the budget. Each person on this team chose to be there because they care about the giving and future of New Era Lutheran. During this meeting, someone voiced a concern over the basement that has long been susceptible to flooding because of the grounds behind the church and the basement door. It was decided that we would move forward to create a permanent solution by hiring an excavator to change the landscape of the land. The basement would also be professionally cleaned as well. This meeting was an excellent example of how the Body of Christ functions as a team to strive toward the common good. Each member of the Body of Christ brought their unique perspective and voice and was heard by the group.

God is always working ahead of us and leading us toward wholeness and restoration. God is also in the business of surprises and transformation. And we need the full community to imagine, discuss, and explore how God is calling us to be church right now. Where might God be leading us as congregation? Where have you experienced the delight and surprise of grace in our lives together? Join our conversation and prayer as we imagine together what God might be up to at 3455 New Era Road.

If it has been months since you've been to New Era, we miss you and the vital role you play in our congregation. I invite you to come and see how you might find belonging at New Era. Wherever you are at right now, bring it to Christ. Bring it all to church which is a hospital for sinners and broken people like you and me.

In Christ we hope and pray, Amen.

Pastor Kirsten



Remember in Prayer

Bjorn Thoren, Amy Wilson, Kay and Buzzy, June Weber, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Alice Hermann, Nathan Hadley, Bill Halling, Jay Schackle, John & Susan Hartung, Catherine Dittmer, Family & loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Kenny Parish who passed away. Services to be determined in October.

Sincere condolences to the loved ones of Paul King who passed away.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 – Alice Hermann
3 – Hunter Johnson
7 – Arye Wulf
10 – Grant Probasco
11 – Tim McCleary
20 – Candace Harland
21 – Jamie Wittmer
26 – Gianna Kurz
30 – Kelsea Nichols
31 – Carolyn Cole

Anniversaries

9 – Gary & Becki Petersen
28 – Chris & Carolyn Cole
28 – Nick & Kari Thoren
31 – Mike & Alice Hermann

*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 Communion Sunday — Oct. 3, 2021
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday — Oct. 10, 2021
- Columbus Day observed — Oct. 11, 2021
- Reformation Sunday — Oct. 31, 2021
- Reformation Day — Oct. 31, 2021

October

Ushers – Leacox

Alter Guild – Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

Oct 3 Lynne Leacox
Oct 10 Ann Mayes
Oct 17 Eric Leacox
Oct 24
Oct 31 Becki Petersen

Fellowship Hostesses

Sept 26 Betty McMahon, Vi Levetzow, Lynn Bendt
Oct 3 Vicki Hampton, Janie Swails
Oct 10 Nancy Henke, Joan Dietrich
Oct 17 Shirley Petersen, Becki Petersen
Oct 24 Betty McMahon, Alice Hermann
Oct 31 Carolyn Leach, Vicki Hampton

Mixed signals

A newcomer approached the pastor after worship and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing."



Placing hands on the man's ears, the pastor said a very passionate, earnest prayer and then asked the visitor, "How's your hearing now?"

With a confused look, the man said, "Well, it's scheduled for tomorrow."

Time to hit delete?


If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy. —Elisabeth Eliot

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??


Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it's a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?


- A. Adam, Eve and Seth
- B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah
- C. Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab
- D. Deborah, Barthsheba and Huldah
- E. A and B
- F. B and C
- G. C and D

Answer: F



Meet Yabes!





VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

MUSCATINE CROP HUNGER WALK
Sunday, October 3, 2021
2:00 pm on the Riverfront

This year's CROP Walk is in-person or donations can be made to the CROP Hunger Walk. Becki and Shirley Petersen are collecting money for Muscatine CROP Hunger Walk. Make checks payable to CROP.

**Proceeds go to Muscatine Community Food Pantry,
 Bag of Blessings, and Church World Service.**

Photo: Ryan Shanley

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

Yabes and her daughter Sifralili are posing happily in their new vegetable garden in West Timor, Indonesia. Just outside the scope of the camera are a rooster, some hens and the chirping sounds of 50 baby chicks.

Before, Yabes struggled to keep her little girl healthy.

"Sifralili was often sick...I had no water and could not keep our home in a hygienic way...we rarely ate vegetables because we couldn't plant a garden and we could not afford to buy them in the market, either."

As part of the CWS Zero Hunger initiative, Yabes now has a protected clean water source. She received seeds and training to build a home garden. With the gift of a rooster and three hens, she's now collecting eggs and raising enough chickens to turn a profit. She has saved almost enough to build a latrine for her family.

When you support a CROP Hunger Walk, you are there investing in global neighbors like Yabes with this winning combo for a healthier, more prosperous life.



More mothers like Yabes need your help. Together we can continue to transform communities in Indonesia and around the world. **Give today!**

\$15  HOME GARDENING FOR A FAMILY	\$24  CHICKENS FOR A FAMILY	\$64  WINNING COMBO PLATE*	\$115  FAMILY LATRINE
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*Seeds, tools, chickens & clean water access

"Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. Divide your gifts among many, for in the days ahead you yourself may need much help."

— ECCLESIASTES 11:1 (TLB)

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG • 888-CWS-CROP •   #CROPHUNGERWALK

For love of animals

St. Francis of Assisi, known for his affection for animals, is honored on October 4. Some congregations observe this day by blessing pets, remembering that God pronounced animals — along with all creation — good. God saved not only Noah's family but animals of all kinds from the Flood. And despite Jonah's protests, God had compassion on Nineveh — "and [its] many animals" (Jonah 4:11). How intriguing that the prophet adds this point! Care for all living creatures is clearly part of the divine character. Animals don't do anything to earn God's favor except be themselves. From this, we can learn that God pours out love unconditionally. As Psalm 36:6 (CEV) declares, "All people and animals are under your care."

Daily reminders of baptism

One way Satan attacks Christians is by reminding us of our sins, both of commission (wrongdoing) and omission (neglecting to do right). And one way we can fight back is by remembering our baptism. The reformer Martin Luther recommended pondering that sacrament daily, whenever we wash our face, because "in baptism sins are drowned."

Getting dressed can serve as another frequent reminder, Luther says, because baptism is the "daily garment ... the Christian is to wear all the time." He writes, "Christ instituted holy baptism ... to clothe you with his righteousness. It is

tantamount to his saying, 'My righteousness shall be your righteousness; my innocence, your innocence. Your sins indeed are great, but by baptism I bestow on you my righteousness; I strip death from you and clothe you with my life.'"

Appreciating your pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority and more.

But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

We don't change the message; the message changes us. You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has. Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.

Before saying yes

I keep learning the same lesson over and over (so maybe that means I haven't learned it yet). With church, school and community volunteer work, my schedule is packed. I'm exhausted! And to be honest, only about a third of the roles truly excite me.

Of course, service is important and yields blessings. And in a pinch, helpers need to step up. But consider all these benefits of occasionally saying no:

- You give someone else a chance to shine and thrive.
- You free up your schedule to be present elsewhere.
- You protect your mental resources for existing roles.
- You gain a bit more sleep or rest.

The last time you felt fully alive while volunteering, what were you doing? Who was serving alongside you? Can you do this — or something similar — again?

Before quickly agreeing to a request, see if God is tugging your heart in a certain direction. If he prompts you, by all means, shout yes! If not, "rest" assured that it's okay to say no.—Janna Firestone

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s
th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.
_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV

Lessons from lilies

Recently I was challenged to think about what consumes me — and what distracts me from giving God more. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus tells us not to worry about what we eat, drink and wear. I've read those verses numerous times and usually respond, "Yeah, but the birds and lilies don't have mortgages and bills! How can I not worry?" I'm finally realizing that if I put Christ first, then my trust in him affects my

day-to-day decisions. Plus, negative thoughts start to fade.

When do you respond, "Yeah, but ..." to God? Maybe it's when you want to sleep in on Sunday, or when the offering plate is passed, or when you're asked to teach Sunday school. Try reciting Matthew 6:33 often: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (ESV). When we prioritize Jesus, he guides us toward him and away from worries.—Julie Lee

What God is like

Before her death in 2019, Rachel Held Evans started writing a book with her young children in mind. The goal was to help them explore images for God, who is love. What Is God Like? (co-authored by Matthew Turner) acknowledges, "That's a very big question, one that people from places all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time." The book highlights such biblical images for God as an eagle, a shepherd, a fort, wind, an artist, a "strong and safe" mother, and a "gentle and safe" father.

Just as Evans remained open to questions as a means to grow in faith, her book concludes: "Keep searching. Keep wondering. ... But whenever you aren't sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe ... brave ... loved. That's what God is like." What images for God come to your mind? Indeed, what is God like — for you?

Defending your name

Hundreds of people recently brought pool noodles to a Nebraska field to “fight” for the name they all share: Josh. The event was the brainchild of Josh Swain, who jokingly suggested a battle to keep that moniker.

The #JoshFight was tongue-in-cheek, but how strongly do we stand up for our name as Christians? “Defending the faith to the best of our ability is not a luxury or an indulgence in intellectual vanity,” writes R.C. Sproul. “It is the task given to each one of us as we bear witness to our faith before the world.”


Pool noodles may not work well for this task, but we have God’s armor and the cross. As the hymn notes, “Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim / Till all the world adore his sacred name.”—Stephanie Martin

Christian symbol



RAINBOW—The Rainbow represents God’s pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment.


PUZZLE





MASTER MULTIPLICATION


Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master’s money. How does the master respond?


Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.


⑤ $\times 3 =$ 


⑦ $\times 4 =$ 


④ $\times 6 =$ 


② $\times 10 =$ 


⑨ $\times 5 =$ 

⑥ $\times 6 =$ 

⑨ $\times 3 =$ 

③ $\times 8 =$ 

⑩ $\times 4 =$ 

⑪ $\times 8 =$ 

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of _____ . Come and share your master’s happiness!’”












MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things

October 2021



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3  World Communion Sunday 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	4	5  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	7	8	9
10  Pastor Appreciation Day 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	11  Columbus Day Observed	12  9 am - Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome  Church Council 5:30 pm - Council Mtg	13 9:00 am - Care & Concern meet at McDonald's  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	14	15	16
17 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	18	19	20  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	21	22	23
24 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service	25	26	27  Bible Study 6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	28	29	30
31  Reformation Sunday 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service *	1	* Pastor Dan Kuckuck from the synod's office of the Bishop will lead worship on Sunday, October 31st,				