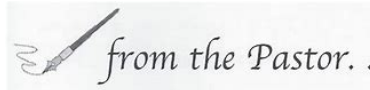




New Era Lutheran Church

January 2022 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:

Joan Dietrich, Office Admin
Office: 563-263-5356
Office Hours: Tues & Wed – 10 am-2 pm
Thurs – 10 am - Noon
Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com

Organist: Mary Maxson
Choir Director: Lavonne Schrum

Building Rental –

Gloria Batteau
Church, Fellowship Hall, Gym
Cell: 563-299-9622
Email: gfbatteau@gmail.com

Bulletin & Newsletter– Joan Dietrich

Cell: 563-299-4710
Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com
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)

<https://www.womansday.com/life/g29792377/prayer-quotes/>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

During our time of Christmas, we often hear about Christmas wishes. Both what we want on our Christmas list of gifts to receive and what we hope for our loved ones and the world. As Christ followers, we trust in the power of prayer which out lasts any wish. We turn to The Creator and Sustainer with our needs and our joys. Because of Christ's grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, our prayers are heard and received regardless of any other factors. Whether your faith feels strong or not, the Holy Spirit works through your prayers all the same.

Christ's grace gives us the freedom to pray anytime and anywhere. What a life-giving gift to pray whenever needed and to know the Holy Spirit intercedes in our joys and with "sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). One of my favorite times to pray is when I am driving. I turn the radio off and let the Spirit take my thoughts and prayers.

As we celebrate Christmas and begin this new year together, what is your Christmas prayer?

In my time at New Era, I have been deeply blessed to share in prayer with you. It is an honor to pray for you and with you. Sharing in prayer together with someone else is an act of trust, both for God and one another as we allow our joys and sorrows to be shared. It is with deep gratitude that I share the following prayers.

Heavenly Lord, we offer these prayers and more to you, trusting that you come alive in our prayers in incredible ways. Hear our prayers that are shared with you and come among us to share your peace that goes beyond our understanding. Lord, we give you thanks for the ways New Era make Christ known in the community. We praise you for the kindness and hospitality that is consistently shared in your house of worship. We praise you for the gift to see your new life together as we continue on our way toward the cross.

Hear these prayers, dear Lord, that we share now...

For peace throughout the world

For God's people to be more patient and forgiving with one another (Dan Petersen)

For peace in our government

For the health of our families

For our nation to experience wide-spread patience, understanding, and grace for one another.

For the Christ's presence to be felt, seen, and heard in our congregation, homes, and world.

Send your Holy Spirit to come alive in a new way that is life-giving and awe-inspiring.

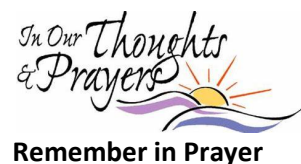
Hear our prayers that we share in our hearts....

Lastly, Lord, we pray for you to give us grace to know when to listen, when to act, and when to seek forgiveness. Help us to remember the prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

Amen.

Pastor Kirsten



William Humphrey, Julie Dittmer, Catherine Dittmer, Mike Hermann, Alice Hermann, Candace & Chuck Harland, Lois Thornburg, Randy Meador, Shirley Burr, Amy Wilson, Kay Ely, June Weber, Emogene Sorgenfrey, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

January



Birthdays

1 – Mary Maxson
5 – Stephanie Anderson
8 – Jim Wittmer
23 – Luke Probasco
25 – Rob Burger

Anniversaries

6 – Adam & Kimberly Turner
7 – Garrett & Beth Young

*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!

January

Ushers – ??

Alter Guild – Shirley Petersen

Communion Asst - ??

Readers

Flowers

Jan 2, 2022

Jan 9 Shirley Petersen

Jan 16

Jan 23

Jan 30

Fellowship Hostesses

Jan 2, 2022 Vicki Hampton, Carolyn Leach

Jan 9 Gloria Batteau, Viola Shankle

Jan 16 Joyce Rudbeck, Wiladene Yankee

Jan 23 Janet Kindler, Shirley Petersen

Jan 30 Josiah Anderson, Cassidy Probasco

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan 17, 2022
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan 18-25, 2022



It is with great pleasure to welcome our newest member to New Era Lutheran Church, Viola Hubles-Shankle. She comes from Holy Family Church and resides in Davenport. Viola was a

bail bonding agent for 37 years and was the first female bonding agent. Viola said it was a very interesting job – good, bad, and in-between. She has two grown children – a daughter who is a professor in Colorado and a son who lives in Davenport. Please welcome Viola into our church.

A prayer for Epiphany



O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice. Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name. Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries. Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts. Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of

Special dates

- New Year's Day, Jan 1, 2022
- Epiphany, Jan 6, 2022
- Baptism of the Lord, Jan 9, 2022
- Religious Freedom Day, Jan 16, 2022

peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.—Wilhelm Loeh (adapted)

What's in a name?

As the U.S. evacuated thousands from Afghanistan in August 2021, an Afghan woman gave birth on a plane. She named her daughter Reach — the name of the aircraft that brought her family to safety.

Many people name their children after loved ones or special events; a child born on Christmas might be called Noel or Holly. In Bible times, too, names often had meanings: Eve likely means “mother of all living”; Abraham, “father of many”; Isaac, “laughter.” Moses is a play on words with the Hebrew for “draw out” because Pharaoh’s daughter drew him from the Nile.

Of course, the most important biblical name is Jesus, which means “The Lord saves.” As the angel told Joseph, “[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, ESV). The Christian church traditionally celebrates Name of Jesus on January 1. But every day, as we pray in Jesus’ name, we remember that what’s in *this* name is the salvation God offers to all.

Lighting the way for others



When Ida Nelson, head tribal clerk of a remote Alaskan village, heard an airplane flying low after dark, she knew something was wrong. Igiugig (Iggy-yaw-gigg), population 70, isn’t normally a nighttime destination. Indeed, the medevac flight was coming to pick up a sick child.

Because the local airstrip’s lights had been vandalized, the plane was having trouble landing. Nelson began alerting neighbors, and within minutes, villagers lined the runway with their vehicles, headlights blazing. The pilot was able to land and then safely deliver the sick child to an Anchorage hospital. The airlift service praised the residents’ determination, but Nelson describes their effort as “normal” and “ordinary.”

What everyday actions can you use to provide light amid darkness? How can you shine Jesus’ light in a world that needs him?

“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”—C.S. Lewis

* * *

“One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: to rise above the little things.”

—John Burroughs

* * *

“Deep roots are not reached by the frost.”—J.R.R. Tolkien

Winter wonder

If you're tired of shoveling snow by now, just be glad you didn't live in what's now Keogh, Montana, in January 1887. Two years before that area became a U.S. state, personnel at an army fort saw a Frisbee-sized flake falling from the winter sky. Scientists say the flake, estimated at 15 inches wide, likely was the result of numerous smaller flakes merging before landing on the ground. That massive dose of winter still holds the title of largest snowflake, according to Guinness World Records.

So help me God

No matter how firm our resolutions, we can't make ourselves better people *by ourselves*. God empowers our good works when we rely on his aid.

H.P. Nichols, a 19th-century poet, wrote:

If I resolve, with the new year, a better
child to be,
'Twill do no good at all, I fear, but rather
harm to me,
Unless I try, with every day, no angry word
to speak;
Unless, each morn, to God I pray to keep
me mild and meek.
Then let me try with all my might, and
may God help me too,
Always to choose the way that's right,
whatever act I do.

Facing the future

Don't worry about the future. Worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. He is in charge of all things. Never second-guess him.—François Fenelon

Biblical resolutions

Hold firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray and thank God earnestly
(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Petition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Notice opportunities to serve others
(Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yearn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)

Exercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time, living wisely
(Ephesians 5:15-16)—Gus Nichols (adapted)

Bible Quiz

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)



Puzzle!

Match each clue with the correct biblical dreamer.

Puzzle!

Match each clue with the correct biblical dreamer.
Use the Scripture hints if needed.

1. This person's brothers were irritated to hear of certain dreams.

2. Angels went up and down a ladder in this person's dreams.

3. This person dreamed about skinny cows eating fat cows.

4. After an unpleasant dream, this person warned a loved one to avoid Jesus.

5. This person saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone.

6. A dream warned this person (plus family) to flee to Egypt.

7. This person saw a vine produce grapes, with juice squeezed into a cup.

8. A dream warned about Herod's evil plan.

A. Pharaoh
(Genesis 41:17-21)

B. The Magi
(Matthew 2:12)

C. Jacob
(Genesis 28:12)

D. Pharaoh's cupbearer
(Genesis 40:9-11)

E. NT Joseph
(Matthew 2:13)

F. OT Joseph
(Genesis 37:9, 11)

G. Pilate's wife
(Matthew 27:19)

H. Daniel
(Daniel 2:31-35)

Answers: 1.F, 2.C, 3.A, 4.G, 5.H, 6.E, 7.D, 8.B

Being neighborly

The last time you moved into a new community, did your neighbors welcome you? From previous moves, I fondly recall receiving smiles, handshakes, baked goods and houseplants. Because one new neighborhood included two parsonages, I wasn't surprised to receive invitations to worship. After that, I began anticipating similar invitations, even

though we had a church home. We don't always take our new neighbors up on the offers, but knowing that churchgoers live nearby is comforting.

When a new family moves into your neighborhood, how do you respond? Does it cross your mind to invite them to worship? Maybe they're waiting for — even needing — that invitation. To ask, you don't need to be a pastor or a member of the evangelism committee ... just a friendly neighbor.

—Julie Lee

First in line

We were rushing to our next destination when yet another traffic light turned red. As usual, I had packed too many tasks into the day. Now we'd be even later. While I stewed in frustration, my son had a completely different reaction to being stopped. "Yes — I love this!" he shouted as we sat. "We're first in line!"

What an important lesson on perspective. I focused on the negative, but he saw the good in the situation. As Proverbs 15:13 says, "A joyful heart brightens one's face, but a troubled heart breaks the spirit" (CEB).

Now instead of pep talks about half-full or half-empty glasses, our family offers reminders about being stopped by a light versus being first in line. The next time I'm delayed, I hope I can think, "Yes — I love this!"—Janna Firestone

Turning back

In 1569 Holland, Dirk Willems, a member of the Anabaptist (now known as Mennonite) church, was imprisoned for refusing to belong to the state church. He escaped and was running across a pond's thin ice when the guard in pursuit fell through. Hearing the drowning

man's cries, Willems turned back to rescue him, even though it meant his capture and subsequent execution.

Four centuries later, civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. urged us to love our enemies by not defeating them “when the opportunity presents itself.” Eventually we’ll have chances to get back at people who misuse or gossip about us, he said. But “the meaning of love” is in not doing so. “In the final analysis, love is not this sentimental something that we talk about,” said King. “It’s not merely an emotional something. Love is creative, understanding goodwill for all [people]. It is the refusal to defeat any individual.”

Be of good cheer


Near the end of every January, stories circulate about “Blue Monday,” supposedly the year’s most depressing day. Factors include broken New Year’s resolutions, Christmas debts and cold weather. But this phenomenon actually originated as a PR gimmick. U.K. marketers invented Blue Monday as “the best day to book a summer holiday,” and a psychologist they enlisted to help later admitted the saddest-seeming day became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

January may lack the excitement of December, but it doesn’t have to be a letdown. Christmas is over, but Jesus isn’t! No matter the season of the year or our season of life, Christians always have reason for joy: God’s promises of forgiveness and eternal victory. As Jesus says in John 16:33, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (KJV).

Christian symbol



HAND OF GOD—This symbolizes God the Father, as well as his ownership and care of all creation. During the Christian church’s first 800 years, the hand was about the only symbol used for God. Many Bible verses speak of God’s loving, protective hand (Psalm 138:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Peter 5:6). In heaven, Jesus sits at God’s right hand (Mark 16:19).



PUZZLE

A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but love your neig_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus_____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go____. ... To act **justly** and to love me_____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them d _____to you, for this s _____ms up the _____w and the Proph _____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

father_____

pe_____

_____venge

_____od

_____rcy

_____op_____

_____hbor

_____humb_____

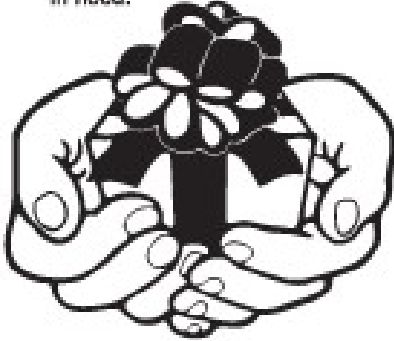
_____cas_____

_____tice

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, do to others, have, do, sums, law, Prophets

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



Easy Crock Pot Potato Soup

Ingredients

- 30 oz. bag frozen diced hash browns
- 32 oz. chicken stock/broth
- 10 oz. can cream of chicken soup
- 8 oz. cream cheese (NOT fat-free)
- 3 oz. bacon bits, divided
- 1 c. shredded Cheddar cheese
- salt and pepper, to taste

Directions







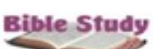

Place hash browns in the crockpot; add in chicken stock/broth, cream of chicken soup and half of the bacon bits. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook on Low for 7-8 hours or until potatoes are tender.

One hour before serving, cut cream cheese into small cubes; place cubes in the crock pot. Stir several times throughout the hour before serving. When the cream cheese is completely melted in, it's ready to serve.

Garnish with Cheddar cheese and bacon bits

January 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 
2 *	3	4	5	6 	7	8
9 * 	10	11 9 am – Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern meet at McDonald's  6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 * 	17	18	19  6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 *	24	25	26  6:30 pm @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 *	31	<p>*Every Sunday: 9:30 am - Sunday School; 10:30 am - Worship Service</p> <p>Sun., Jan 16 - Join us after worship for discussion and time to ask questions on the COVID vaccine with Beth Ann Young. Beth is getting her PhD in Pharmaceutical Science and Translational Therapy and has insight and expertise to share with our community.</p> <div data-bbox="1583 1295 1948 1477">  <p>Week of Prayer FOR Christian Unity January 18-25, 2022</p> </div>				