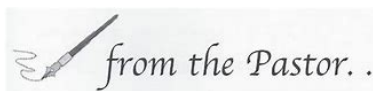


New Era Lutheran Church



May 2022 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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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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or [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)
[NewEraLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewEraLutheranChurch)

Dear holy ones,

Happy Easter to you! I pray you experience the surprising new life of our risen Savior in your life. Perhaps this reminder of Christ's gift of life is heard in the songs of the birds or seen in budding flowers and trees. Perhaps the gift of Christ's ever caring relationship is experienced in laughter shared with someone you love or a tight hug during a time of sorrow. Or, perhaps you can experience the freedom of new life as Christ helps you let go of that which causes you to feel stuck or weighed down.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 11, we hear about a man named Lazarus who has been dead for four days. The sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, are devastated that Jesus didn't come sooner to heal Lazarus and restore him to new life. As Jesus comes to the tomb where Lazarus' body was, Jesus instructs the stone guarding the tomb to be removed. Martha resists as there would likely be a strong smell after four days. Jesus responds with this question:

⁴⁰“Didn't I tell you”, said Jesus, ‘that if you believed you would see God's glory?’ ⁴¹So they took the stone away. Jesus lifted up his eyes. Thank you, father,’ he said, for hearing me! ⁴²I know you always hear me, but I've said this because of the crowd standing around, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ ⁴³With these words, he gave a loud shout: ‘Lazarus – come out!’

⁴⁴And the dead man came out. He was tied up, hand and foot, with strips of linen, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. 'Untie him,' said Jesus, 'and let him go.' (Jn. 11: 41-44 *New Testament for Everyone*).

Christ's resurrection breaks the chains of death, giving us life that is forever lived in our Savior. The promise of resurrection is for you and is made known to you as you live out your life. We are in need of a Savior long before we die and are carried home to our Savior's eternal glory. Christ takes all that weighs us down and helps us experience the freedom of his abundant grace and new life.

What weighs you down right now? In what parts of your life do you feel stuck? What would it look like for Christ to break these chains for you and show you a new opportunity? Imagine coming before Christ holding tightly to all that weighs you down. Imagine un-clenching your hands and opening them before him. Imagine him picking up all that you bring and placing in your hands his love and strength. Now, imagine closing your hands, trusting that his care for you will never be lost or emptied.

Before Jesus takes his disciples to see Lazarus, he tells them "You're about to be given new grounds for believing" (Jn. 11: 14-15 *The Message*). Letting go can be alarming and unfamiliar *AND* this can lead to new revelations about God's care for you. Even as we struggle and resist as Mary and Martha, God's Spirit helps us see the stones God rolls away and the new life which emerges from the tombs.

For further reflection, read the story of Lazarus in John chapter 11.

- Notice the different characters of Mary, Martha, Jesus, and the religious leaders. Each one of them responds differently. Jesus takes his time as he trusts God's timing and glory that will be revealed.

Martha runs to Jesus while Mary stays home. Both express anger at Jesus and we hear from Martha conviction of faith in the resurrection. The religious leaders at the end of this story are further angry at Jesus and jealous of his divine powers.

What character do you identify with right now?

- Notice the many emotions expressed in this story: Anger, Sadness, hope, doubt, jealousy etc.. Jesus weeps at the death of Lazarus. How might Christ be welcoming your full self and your many emotions at this time? What anger or sadness might you express to him? What hope and joy do you need to receive from your Lord?

With Christ's love,
† Pastor Kirsten †



Remember in Prayer

June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Kenny McDaniel, Marvin Leach, Luke Probasco, Avery Cole, Tahlor Baxter, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

4-Dallas Wulf
 7-Bill Halling
 8-Neil Wulf
 11-Bob McMahon
 13-Emerly Anderson
 14-Angela Wulf
 16-Catherine Alexander
 19-Cassidy Probasco
 22-Lydia Anderson
 23-Chuck Harland
 27-Renee Johnson
 27-William Anderson
 28-Rob Gladwell
 31-Darrian Plowman

Anniversaries

12-Nikki & Matt Kurz
 19-Aaron & Rachel Turner
 23-Tim & Mary McCleary
 24-Luke & Cassidy Probasco
 30-Eric & Lynne Leacox

*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
 Happy Anniversary!*

May

Ushers – ?? Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Gloria Batteau & Viola Shankle

Readers

5/1 Joan Dietrich
 5/8 Joyce Rudbeck
 5/15
 5/22 Becki Petersen
 5/29 Shirley Petersen

Flowers

Janie Swails
 Joyce Rudbeck
 Becki Petersen
 Shirley Petersen

Fellowship Hostesses

5/1 Vicki Hampton, Shirley McDaniel
 5/8 Carolyn Leach, Shirley Petersen
 5/15 Joyce Rudbeck, Betty McMahon
 5/22 Becki Petersen, Ann Mayes
 5/29 Janet Kindler

**ANNUAL MEETING
 WILL BE HELD
 SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022**

**PLEASE HAVE ALL REPORTS
 SUBMITTED BY
 SUNDAY
 MAY 29, 2022**

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 5, 2022

Council meeting was held April 5, 2022, at 6 pm. The meeting was called to order by President Josiah Anderson. Members attending: Pastor Kirsten, Joyce, Josiah, Adam, Gloria, Eric, and Vicki.

Vicki gave devotional. Council minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Eric gave treasure report reviewing the February statements and answering any questions asked. Council discussed the need to have a second member present as offerings were counted and recorded. Josiah made a motion for this to be done and recorded on a spreadsheet with the weekly givings. Adam seconded motion; all in favor.

Care & Concern: Gloria reported on Care & Concern group for March 9th meeting. They made plans to visit Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull,

Emogene Sorgenfrey, and others homebound when arrangements are made.

Property: Dick reported the soffit had been fixed above the fellowship doors after a wind storm. Both urinals were repaired in restroom. Snow blower was taken out of storage building with the season over.

Propane tanks needed to have a delivery made with gym being used for Durant school basketball practice and parsonage was low.

The gym door was not locked when Dick made a property check.

A 4x8 political sign was in the parsonage yard; Dick removed.

The parsonage renter has been very late or let it lapsed. Council discussed this issue and Josiah moved to have the parsonage available to another renter on June 30, 2022. Adam seconded this motion. Council discussed and all voted in favor.

Trees were cut down in back of church March 27 by members. Josiah reported the gym basement is in process of being cleaned out. Products for contaminations will be applied. Ozone will be run through the duct works.

Worship: Mary will be doing choir for several occasions. Lavonne currently is not ready to return to doing choir.

Youth: Youth will be serving the April 17th Easter Breakfast. Everyone is welcome to sign up to bring a side breakfast dish to accompany the biscuits and gravy and pancakes that the Youth will do. There will also be a free will offering for Youth Camp. Adam made a motion. Parents pay \$100 each child and the

church pay the balance for the youth to attend. Gloria seconded the motion; motion passed.

Bishop currently will be visiting with New Era on Zoom some Tuesday in May at 7 pm, yet to be arranged.

All reports must be turned into church office in June for annual meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Vicki Hampton



I want to thank you all for the Isabel Bloom plaque quoting Numbers 6:24-26 for Administrative/ Secretary's Day! It is beautiful and I appreciate it very much.

Joan Dietrich



A Prayer for Mother's Day

*Adapted by Heidi Carrington Heath,
originally written by Amy Young.*

"We are praying for you if you are like Tamar, struggling with infertility, or a miscarriage or if you are like Rachel, counting the women among your family and friends who year by year and month by month get pregnant, while you wait.

We are praying for you if you are like Naomi and have known the bitter sting of a child's death, or if you are like Joseph and Benjamin, and your Mom has died.

We are praying for you if your relationship with your Mom was marked by trauma, abuse, or abandonment, or she just couldn't parent you the way you needed.

We are praying for you if you've been like Moses' mother and put a child up for adoption, trusting another family to love your child into adulthood. Or if you've been like Pharaoh's daughter, called to love children who are not yours by birth.

We are praying for you if you are watching, or have watched your mother age, and disappear into the long goodbye of dementia.

We are praying for you if you, like Mary, are pregnant for the very first time and waiting breathlessly for the miracle of your first child.

We are praying for you if your children have turned away from you, painfully closing the door on relationship, leaving you holding your broken heart in your hands.

We are praying for you if motherhood is your greatest joy and toughest struggle all rolled into one.

We are praying for you if you are watching your child battle substance abuse, a public legal situation, mental illness, or another situation which you can merely watch unfold.

We are praying for you if you, like so many women before you, do not wish to be a mother, are not married, or in so many other ways do not fit into societal norms.

We are praying for you if you see yourself reflected in all, or none of these stories.

This Mother's Day, wherever and whoever you are, we walk with you. You are loved. You are seen. You are worthy. And may you know the deep love without end of our big, wild, beautiful God who is the very best example of a parent that we know. Amen."

We remember

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves



of Union and Confederate soldiers alike. By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

God's hands

Exactly a century ago, Irish physician Alexander Irvine published *My Lady of the Chimney Corner*, a book dedicated to his saintly mother. The protagonist, Anna, lives and ministers to others as Irvine's own mother had done. In the story, Anna visits a neighbor who has just lost a son at sea. After talking for a while, Anna suggests they pray together. With heads bowed, she reaches to place a loving hand on the grieving mother's forehead. Afterward, the woman says, "I think I felt his touch upon my brow," referring to God.

Anna says, "God is everywhere looking for hands to use. Sometimes he takes the hand of a doctor and uses it in healing. Sometimes he takes the hand of a mother to soothe the brow of a fevered child. And sometimes he takes the hand of an old critter like me to bring a bit of help and comfort to a neighbor. But they are all God's hands, and God is everywhere looking for hands to use."



Confirmed in the faith

Confirmation, a rite many churches celebrate each spring, has biblical

roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would "confirm" a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation.

Now confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized. Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.

Prayer's certain payoff

Prayers prayed in the Spirit never die until they accomplish God's intended purpose. His answer may not be what we expected, or when we expected it, but God often provides much more abundantly than we could think or ask. He interprets our intent and either answers or stores up our prayers. Sincere prayers are never lost [and] will never be wasted or go unrewarded.--Missionary Wesley Duewel

Fixed hours of prayer

As summer approaches, you may look forward to a more relaxed routine. But don't discard all your good habits and commitments! For soul care, try fixed hours of prayer. Simply expand the concept of praying at set times (such as before meals and bed) into praying regularly each morning, midday and evening. Set an alarm on your watch or phone and commit to engaging with God at the specified times. You can do this on your own or with family or friends.

You can pray using Scripture verses, devotional guides, the *Book of Common Prayer* or a resource such as *ExploreFaith.org*. (When I'm tired or overwhelmed, it's helpful to pray someone else's words.) You might want to pray the same prayers morning, noon and evening for a week or a month. This practice isn't meant to replace spontaneous prayers. Instead, use fixed hours of prayer to nurture a consistent habit of conversing with God.

—Janna Firestone

A Mother's Day hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!
Earth prospers from the way
God "mothers" each new child into
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood
A channel from above
That longs to share with every child
God's comfort, grace and love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,
Who "mothers" us from birth!
Providing what we truly need
Throughout our lives on earth.
—Peggy Ferrell

Bible Quiz



When Moses was on the mountain for a long time, who made a golden calf for the people of Israel to worship?

- A. Joshua
- B. Levi
- C. Caleb
- D. Aaron

Answer: D (See Exodus 32:1-6.)

Our fun-loving God

Whence comes this idea that if what we are doing is fun, it can't be God's will? The God who made giraffes, a baby's fingernails, a puppy's tail, a crook-necked squash, the bobwhite's call and a young girl's giggle has a sense of humor. Make no mistake about that.
—Catherine Marshall

Mr. Rogers, to grads — and to us all

Our world hangs like a magnificent jewel in the vastness of space. Every one of us is a part of that jewel, a facet of that jewel, and in the perspective of infinity, our differences are infinitesimal. We are intimately related. May we never even pretend that we are not. ... Deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too, even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. ...

[Roman philosopher] Boethius wrote this sentence: "Oh happy race of mortals if your hearts are ruled, as is the universe, by love." ... [There is a] deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive: love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed. So in all that you do, in all of your life, I wish you the strength and the grace to make those choices which will allow you — and your neighbor — to become the best of whoever you are.—Fred McFeely Rogers, 2002

Where home is

As Christians, we trust that after this life, we'll be safe with God in heaven. What heaven is like is a mystery, but we rely on images from the Bible, including "the holy city, the new

Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven” (Revelation 21:2). Wait — what? Usually we imagine going “up” to God. What a difference to picture God’s city, and God himself, “coming down” to us!

When we travel from the place we know best to visit others, no matter how much we love them we usually don’t feel “at home.” On the other hand, when I went from college to visit my parents and sisters, I was immediately at home, not just physically but emotionally. Revelation 21:3 (NRSV) says, “The home of God is among mortals.” God is “at home” with us! He knows our routines, understands how we live, fits right in. We don’t have to behave in any special way, like for “company,” because God is family. He “gets” us and loves us. Best of all, because God is at home with us, we can be at home with God.—Heidi Hyland Mann

Jesus leads us into heaven

On Thursday after the sixth Sunday of Easter — May 26 in 2022 — the church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord. John Donne (1571–1631) wrote the poem “Ascension,” which contains an important reminder: When Jesus returned to his Father, it was the culmination of all he had done to prepare the path to heaven for us.

... Joy at the uprising of this Sun, and Son ...
He first enters the way.

O strong Ram, which hast batter’d heaven
for me!

Mild lamb, which with Thy Blood hast
mark’d the path!

Bright Torch, which shinest, that I the way
may see! ...

May we follow our strong-yet-mild, brightly
shining Savior into God’s eternal presence.

A preemptive prayer

Becoming angry is quite easy. The difficult part, as Aristotle observed, is “to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way.” That, he added, “is not within everybody’s power.”

But with God’s power — and prayer — we can resist the pull of anger. Use these Scripture-inspired words: “Teach us, O God, how to keep our cool when provoked, exercising patience and self-control so we can think wisely and creatively about how to handle stress calmly, after the heat of the moment has passed. Help us choose our associates wisely, avoiding those who are hot-tempered and easily angered. Help us choose your way of handling anger, rather than our own, so we might conquer harmful impulses by doing good. In the name of Christ, who showed us how to use anger for good rather than evil. Amen.”

Christian symbol



ROBE—A robe, specifically one that’s new and white, symbolizes the righteousness we receive through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Isaiah 61:10 speaks of “the garments of salvation” and “the robe of righteousness.” In Revelation 6:11, faithful martyrs each receive a white robe. People who are being baptized or confirmed often wear white robes as a sign of purity.

Coloring Page

Enlarge, print and color this page.

COLORING PAGE

Enlarge, print and color this image.



LOVED
Beyond
MEASURE



PUZZLE

A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ _
2. _ _ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ _
6. _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ _
8. _ _ _ _ _
9. _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ _

_ _ono_ your _ _ather and _ _our mo _ _h _r,
so t _at y _u may _ _e l _ng in t _e land
the L _RD _ _ou _ God i _ givi _g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

May 2022

April '22							June '22						
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		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 * 	2  9:30 am - "Classic Stretch" w/Lynne Leacox	3	4  6:30 pm - Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	5 	6	7
8 * 	9  9:30 am - "Classic Stretch" w/Lynne Leacox	10 9 am – Sewing group meets at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.	11 9:00 am - Care & Concern- Meet @ McDonald's  6:30 pm - Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	12	13	14
15 * 	16  9:30 am - "Classic Stretch" w/Lynne Leacox	17	18  6:30 pm - Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	19	20	21
22 * 	23  9:30 am - "Classic Stretch" w/Lynne Leacox	24	25  6:30 pm - Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	26 	27	28
29 * 	30 	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	<p>*Every Sunday: 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Service</p> <p>Pastor Kirsten will be out of town May 1-3 attending a First Call Retreat</p>				