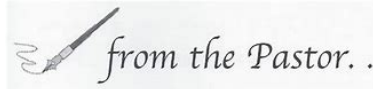


New Era Lutheran Church



November 2022 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
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Sunday School: 9:30 am (Sept-May)
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Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
month

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Dear New Era,

Peace and grace to you, faithful one. For this month's newsletter, I have two things I would like to share with you. First, I want to applaud your work and faithful service during this year's dinner theater, "*Church Basement Ladies*." I am incredibly proud and grateful for everyone's contributions. The preparation was done with care and thoughtfulness, the hospitality was genuine, the food was intentionally planned and expertly prepared, the directing and acting were very well done.

I am especially thankful for the collaboration that I saw that was gracious and joyful. Not once, did I hear grumbling or complaining. Your spirit and positive attitude witnessed Christ's love and grace to not only the visitors who came to the dinner theater, but to everyone who volunteered.

I was very happy to get the opportunity to watch "*Church Basement Ladies*." As I reflected on the play during my drive home, I realized the important work that is done during fellowship time. During worship, we remember the joy and hope that is found in Christ.

As we worship our Lord who promises to care for us in our pain and suffering, you embody this promise, as you check in with one another. As you make plans to visit or send cards to our neighbors who are at home,

you are committing to sharing Christ's promise of mercy and compassion.

When we choose to use real dishes as opposed to plastic or Styrofoam, we are caring for God's creation. We are making a statement that the small choices we make contribute toward God's mission of care-filled living with the gifts God entrusts to us.

As the play showcased with great humor and wit, the holiness of a church goes well beyond the sanctuary. The kitchen was a sanctuary for the pastor in the play. I, too, have found our church kitchen and fellowship hall to be holy grounds where Christ's love, hope, and grace are experienced. Thank you for the ways you care for one another and share in the joy of our Lord.



Photo credit: <https://elca.org/vote>

Secondly, I want to share is encouragement to vote in the mid-term elections this month. I know many of you volunteer at the polls and I know some have already voted. As we continue to learn together how faith influences our whole lives, I want to share some insight from the ELCA. The following is taken from the ELCA website: <https://elca.org/vote>

WE ARE LUTHERAN &
WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER.

We understand that Christians are called to be stewards of our common life through serving as faithful and active citizens. Casting our

ballots is one way in which we live out our affirmation of baptism to "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus." We strive for justice and peace in all the earth and serve our neighbor by securing and expanding voting rights to ensure that all voices are valued, and every voice is heard.

WE ARE CHURCH FOR THE SAKE
OF THE WORLD.

The ELCA is a church called by Jesus Christ to be a public witness to the love of God poured out for all. In 2013, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a social policy resolution titled "Voting Rights to All Citizens." This resolution calls on members, congregations and synods of the church to "promote public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as advocates, engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to "guarantee the right to vote to all citizens." We live out our mutual responsibility for one another by guaranteeing our neighbor's right to vote and participate freely and fully in society.

As citizens of the United States, we have the right and the responsibility to vote. As Lutherans, we remember that we are freed in Christ to serve our neighbor and engage the needs of the world. Again, to quote the ELCA: "Voting is a first step in faithful civic engagement, giving us the opportunity to meet God at work in our world — an opportunity not to be missed." <https://elca.org/vote>



Remember in Prayer

Kim Dierickx, Ryan Gladwell and Alexandria Brush and their new daughter, Bob McMahon, Porche Carle, Vicki Loving, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me through my recent hip surgery. It's been a long recovery and all your "get well" cards were gratefully received. Thanks also to those who dropped off food and flowers. They brightened my day a lot. I wish I could have been more helpful with the play. But, I know, you guys can almost do miracles. Great job everyone.

Alice.

November

Ushers – Lynne & Eric Leacox

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Gloria Batteau &

Viola Hubbs-Shankle

Readers

Flowers

Nov 6 Lynne Leacox

Nov 13 Ann Mayes

Nov 20 Viola Hubbs-Shankle

Nov 27

Fellowship Hostesses

Nov 6 Becki Petersen, Betty McMahon

Nov 13 Senior Dinner

Nov 20 Shirley Petersen, Shirley McDaniel

Nov 27 Ann Mayes

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Chris Wulf

1 – Rhonda Wittmer

5 – Carolyn Leach

10 – Bjorn Thoren

13 – Gary Petersen

17 – Bill Turner

20 – Kimberly Turner

24 – Nick Thoren

29 – Wren Wulf

30 – Phyllis Beck

30 – Rachel Turner

2 – Alek & Joan Dietrich

11 – Tom & Janet Kindler

20 – Pastors Chris & Kirsten Lee

21 – Jim & Rhonda Wittmer

Dear Friends,

Here's a big thank-you for all the invitations to the dinner theaters over the years since we parted company in 2005. We're so glad that we could finally come to one!

Betty and I thoroughly enjoyed our night out. I've always thought of New Era as "enchanted" and our time with you on Friday the 7th certainly fit that description.

Seeing so many of you again brought back so many great memories. I told you on my last day that my time with you "gave me a life back" - something I've shared with other people a few times since.

In the years since, I've had some great experiences with a lot of people who remind me a lot of you. That said, please know that for me - and Betty by extension - there'll never be another New Era!

Fondly yours,
Pete & Betty Hagglund

I would like to send a shout out to all who worked so hard to make the dinner theater a success. So many of you spent a lot of time preparing. It took many to make it work. First, I would like to say that Bill and his brother, Steven, spent numerous hours building the beautiful set. The cast did a great performance. Many church members helped prepare the facility for the event. Thanks to all. There are two ladies that I believe deserve special recognition. Lynne Leacox spent many hours making sure everything looked special in the dining room as well as doing a lot of cleaning. Carolyn Leach spent many hours preparing the menu and ordering all the needed food plus made sure that all of us were educated on how to prepare the food. Both of these ladies worked many hours. God bless all.

Gloria Batteau



We give thanks to all people who serve in the military and the veterans who have served and defended our country. They have sacrificed greatly so that we and generations to come would know security and freedom in our country. As we approach Veterans Day, I am

very grateful for the current military members, veterans, and their families. Their dedication, bravery, and faithfulness are inspiring. Thank you to all who are serving or have served!

New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting – Tues., Oct. 18, 2022

President Becki Petersen called the council meeting to order at 6:19 pm. Joan had devotions.

Present: Vicki Hampton, Becki Petersen, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Joan Dietrich, Pastor Kirsten

Next meeting will be November 8. Dick Leach will have devotions.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Eric made motion to approve minutes; Dick seconded motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report was discussed. Joan made motion to approve treasurer's report; Vicki seconded motion. Motion approved.

Care & Concern: Cards are being sent out to homebound once a month along with birthday and anniversary cards. Visits are also being made.

Property: Eric fixed parking lights. Garage door has been fixed with new springs/cable. Lynne Leacox would like to have old paint removed from the parsonage.

Dick turned on valves to bathroom in gym basement. Furnace at gym and parsonage is set at 55°F. Remotes are missing to the parsonage garage door.

Mike Hermann would like to see a committee meet monthly to clean up church yard. It was suggested to set up two cleanings a year – one in the spring and one in the fall.

Becki and Hannah changed all bulbs in both fellowship restrooms. Outside corner of the gym where irises are located needs to be cleaned out and replanted next spring.

Discussed paint bid and newly found issues along fellowship wall at gym entrance and above the semi-round window at Fellowship entrance. Will

check with Jeremy Hice regarding additional issues.

Pastor asked if parsonage was ready to move in. Items that need to be looked at before anyone moves in: trim in basement needs to be taken off and checked for mold. Some of the carpet looks black around the baseboards. Dick and Joan will check carpet/baseboards for mold.

Things to be removed from parsonage basement are washer, dryer, TV that doesn't work, tread mill, and basketball game. Parsonage basement also needs a dehumidifier.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Dinner theater was discussed.

Old Business:

New Business:

Advent is Sunday, Nov. 27. There will be a soup lunch after worship and hanging of the greens. A poll will be taken to see if there is interest in a meal before Wednesday advent.

Pastor will be on vacation Nov 21-27.

Christmas Eve Worship will be at 7 pm. A poll will be taken for thoughts on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship.

There will be no New Year's Day Worship Sunday, Jan 1, 2023.

Eric made motion to adjourn meeting; Dick seconded motion.

Respectfully,

Joan Dietrich
Secretary

Additional notes after meeting: Advent Sunday, Nov 27 – No soup lunch after worship.

Poll:

13 in favor of mid-week soup dinner and worship;
3 not in favor

9 in favor of Christmas Day worship; 8 not in favor

Thankful for the saints



In our day of Thanksgiving one psalm let us offer

for the saints who before us have found their reward.

When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,

but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord. ...

These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,

and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod.

Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,

and still they were seeking the city of God.

—William H. Draper (1916)

A good contagion

Thanksgiving is key in Christian prayer, but often our requests outweigh our thanks. By contrast, 85% of prayers in the Jewish prayerbook are blessings of thanks, according to Rabbi Evan Moffic. Noting that the Hebrew word for a Jewish person — *Yehudah* — means "one who is grateful," he states, "Gratitude is at the core of how Jews pray."

Someone once asked Moffic if he might know about a blessing he'd overheard at a restaurant. After a man proposed to his girlfriend and she said yes, he walked quietly to a corner, put on a yarmulke (a sacred Jewish head covering worn in prayer) and spoke a blessing. His fiancé teared up. The rabbi said the prayer was surely this: "Blessed are you, O God, sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to reach this joy-filled moment."

Why was this person so interested? "I am planning to propose to my girlfriend," he shared with Moffic, "and I want to say this prayer with her."

Unbeknown to the newly engaged pair, their gratitude transformed another couple's life. When we give thanks to God, not only is our faith strengthened but our thanksgiving may inspire others. Gratitude is contagious!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow."—Michael Ramsey

* * *

"I can't be a Christian on my own. I need a community. I need the church."—Rachel Held

Evans

* * *

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."—G.K. Chesterton

Enough for today



Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we got to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it is rained down from heaven, at our very doors.—Tryon Edwards

From scarcity to abundance

Author Parker Palmer recounted being stuck on a storm-grounded airplane for hours. Though it was lunchtime, meals weren't available, and passengers grew irritable. One flight attendant apologized for the delay, expressing empathy for people's stress, and then passed around two breadbaskets, asking everyone to contribute something.

"Some of you brought snacks to tide you over, and some of you have a few LifeSavers or chewing gum," she said. "And if you don't have anything edible, you have a picture of your children or spouse ... or a bookmark or a business card." Then, she said, "we'll pass the baskets around again, and everyone can take out what they need."

Complaints soon ceased, Palmer recalled, as passengers searched for items and stopped focusing on themselves. The plane became a community of sharing as scarcity and deprivation transformed into abundance and joy.

Living with God in a one-story house

We often think of the universe as a two-story house, notes Orthodox Christian priest Stephen Freeman. "We live here on earth, the first floor, where ... everything operates according to normal, natural laws, while God lives in heaven, upstairs, and is largely removed from the story in which we live." Most of the time we feel like we're all alone on our level of the world.

But, Freeman adds, God is "everywhere present and filling all things." Not that God's kingdom has fully come; we know that's not so. And not to discount the promise of eternity. But we don't live apart from God, even now. As Jacob said, "Surely the Lord is in this place. ... This is none other than the house of God" (Genesis 28:16-17).

How might our perceptions and behaviors change if we expected to run into God frequently, conversing and enjoying his company not only in prayer and worship but while working and relaxing? What a difference

it makes when we live as roommates with God in a one-story world.—based on *Hunting Magic Eels* by Richard Beck

Our disarming God

We want the war horse. Jesus rides a donkey.
We want the eagle. The Holy Spirit descends as a dove.

We want to take up swords. Jesus takes up a cross.

We want the roaring lion. God comes as a slaughtered lamb.

We keep trying to arm God. God keeps trying to disarm us.

—Rev. Benjamin Cremer (via Twitter)

A challenging word

Do you not know that God entrusted you with that money — all above what buys necessities for your families — to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to help the stranger, the widow, the fatherless; and, indeed, as far as it will go, to relieve the wants of all mankind? How can you, how dare you, defraud the Lord, by applying it to any other purpose?

—from a sermon by John Wesley

A veteran's service

American hero Eddie Rickenbacker (1890-1973) led a life of daring and risk, from racing cars as a teen to piloting warplanes. Throughout his experiences, Rickenbacker grew in faith while discovering that “life had no meaning except in terms of helping others.”

In the first issue of *Guideposts* magazine, Rickenbacker described spending four agonizing months of 1941 in the hospital after an accident. While recovering, he pondered life and death, concluding that he couldn't give up because he still “had work to do, others to serve.”

Less than two years later, that ordeal came in handy. After crashing in the South Pacific, Rickenbacker and “seven other starving men” were adrift on a raft for 21 days. Most were “so young they needed the strength and understanding of a man who had been down in the valley of the shadow, who had suffered and made sense out of his suffering,” he said. “It was clear to me that God had a purpose in keeping me alive. ... I had been saved to serve.”

Gratitude galore

If you've ever kept a gratitude journal, you know they're fairly easy to fill. Edward King, an English bishop known for working with the poor, may not have had a fancy journal. But these words evoke such a list: “I will thank God ... for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. ... for the awe of the sunset, the beauty of flowers, the smile of friendship and the look of love ... for the leaves on the trees in spring and autumn, for the witness of the leafless trees through the winter, teaching us that death is sleep and not destruction, for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, oh Lord, the earth is full of thy riches!”

King concludes: “And yet how much more I will thank and praise God for the strength of my body enabling me to work, for the refreshment of sleep, for my daily bread, for the days of painless health, for the gift of my mind and the gift of my conscience, for his loving guidance of my mind ever since it first began to think, and of my heart ever since it first began to love.”

Bible Quiz

Which of the following is not called a "fruit of the Spirit" — but probably could be?



- A. love
- B. faithfulness
- C. self-control
- D. gratitude
- E. gentleness

Answer: D (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

Pardon me!

The annual turkey pardon has been called America's "most absurd holiday tradition." Every November, the president oversees a tongue-in-cheek ceremony, pardoning bird pairs with yummy names such as Biscuits and Gravy, Tater and Tot, and Drumstick and Wishbone.

Theologically, pardon is synonymous with divine forgiveness, an action only God may take (see Psalm 130:3-4). Every sin, at its deepest level, is directed against God and his call to holy living. We can *forgive* someone for a personal offense, but only God can set aside the penalty for sin.

Pardon is also related to atonement, which refers to God reconciling sinners to himself, making us "at one" with him. The Hebrew verb usually translated into English as *pardon* involves the idea of restoration to full favor.—adapted from *The Wired Word*

The company you keep

At a concert, a Christian musician talked about growing up in the South, saying his accent was a giveaway. Then he described his relationship

with Jesus, noting that he spends lots of time in God's Word. By "hanging out with Jesus," he said, he has "picked up Jesus' accent." Just as people know he's from the South because of how his voice sounds, they know he follows Christ through his actions and words.

Proverbs 13:20 emphasizes that the company you keep can greatly influence you, for better or worse. Imagine the impact we can have on other people by hanging out with Jesus more!

Dear God, we invite you into our daily lives. Hang out in our hearts and minds so that when people see and hear us, they'll know whose we are. Amen.—Julie Lee

Christian symbol



TRUMPET—In the Old

Testament, trumpets, often made from ram's horns, called people to worship or war (and often promised victory). Joshua and the Israelites used trumpets to fell the walls of Jericho. Under Gideon, the small Israelite army blew trumpets and smashed jars to confuse the Midianites into surrender. The New Testament says trumpets will sound at the Last Judgment and the resurrection of the dead. In Revelation 11, a seventh trumpet proclaims God's final and complete triumph.



HOT GRAVENSTEIN APPLE CIDER DRINK

Ingredients:

3 C apple cider or apple juice
 2 C cranberry juice
 ¼ C Gravenstein Apple Vinegar
 ¼ C brown sugar
 3 cinnamon sticks, plus more for garnish

1 orange (quartered)
 10 whole cloves




In a large stockpot or crockpot, bring apple cider or apple juice, cranberry juice, Gravenstein apple vinegar, sugar, and cinnamon sticks to a simmer. Quarter orange, poke each quarter with a few cloves and add to pot. Simmer for 20-30 minutes. Serve warm with a cinnamon stick in each mug for garnish. ENJOY!!

"Church Basement Ladies" Dinner Theater!



November 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  All Saints Sunday 	7	8   6 pm - Council Mtg	9 9:00 am - Care & Concern- Meet @ McDonald's Bible Study  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	10	11 	12
13 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  Senior Dinner after Worship	14	15	16 Bible Study  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	17	18	19
20 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	21	22	23 Community Thanksgiving Service  6 pm @ Wesley UMC	24 	25	26
27 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	28	29	30 Bible Study  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	1	2	3
4	5	Nov 21 - Nov 26 - Pastor Kirsten vacation Nov 18-Nov 30 - Joan vacation				