

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

Contacts:

Joan Dietrich, Office Admin
Office: 563-263-5356
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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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

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Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
month

Check us out at www.neweralutheran.com
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

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- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

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- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

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We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson,
Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren,
Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann,
June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador,
Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and
loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in
need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
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10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

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"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
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Still time to get your tickets!!

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New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

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Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

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At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

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World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

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Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

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Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Adults \$30
Children \$20

In the **New Era Community Building**
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson, including the best seller *Growing Up Lutheran*

Presented by permission of Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN



Written by
Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Proceeds benefit

- Lutheran World Relief
- Muscatine Center for Social Action
- New Era Lutheran Church

"If you feel like you're losing everything, remember that trees lose their leaves every year and they still stand tall and wait for better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it."—attributed to Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

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Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

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Hidden blessings

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A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

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Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

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Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

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Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

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Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

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During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



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**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
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Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

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FOR A FAMILY

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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 2022 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
405-248-0586

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Office Hours: Tues & Wed – 10 am-2 pm
Thurs – 10 am - Noon
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Building Rental: Gloria Batteau
Church, Fellowship Hall, Gym
Cell: 563-299-9622
Email: gfbatteau@gmail.com

Bulletin & Newsletter: Joan Dietrich
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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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Adults \$30
Children \$20

In the **New Era
Community Building**
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN



Written by
**Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke**
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Proceeds benefit

- Lutheran World Relief
- Muscatine Center for Social Action
- New Era Lutheran Church

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
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30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

Contacts:

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With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

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God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



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10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
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* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

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"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
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Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

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critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
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Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



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No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

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Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

22

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Adults \$30
Children \$20

In the **New Era
Community Building**
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN



Written by
**Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke**
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Proceeds benefit

- Lutheran World Relief
- Muscatine Center for Social Action
- New Era Lutheran Church

"If you feel like you're losing everything, remember that trees lose their leaves every year and they still stand tall and wait for better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it."—attributed to Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

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After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



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Living in the present

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Be loyal to your friends.

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Be open enough to believe in miracles.

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Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

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Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

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Taking awe breaks

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Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
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- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson,
Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren,
Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann,
June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador,
Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and
loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in
need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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ISAIAH 40:8

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Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



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ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson,
Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren,
Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann,
June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador,
Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and
loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in
need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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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."

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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 2022 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
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Check us out at www.neweralutheran.com
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- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

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Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

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10/9	(cookies only)
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10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



Birthdays

3 – Alice Hermann
3 – Hunter Johnson
7 – Arye Wulf
10 – Grant Probasco
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20 – Candace Harland
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31 – Carolyn Cole

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28 – Chris & Carolyn Cole
28 – Nick & Kari Thoren
31 – Mike & Alice Hermann

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Adults \$30
Children \$20

In the **New Era
Community Building**
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN



Written by
**Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke**
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Proceeds benefit

- Lutheran World Relief
- Muscatine Center for Social Action
- New Era Lutheran Church

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

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- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

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We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



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Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

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Church Basement Ladies



Written by
**Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke**
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

**Adults \$30
Children \$20**

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

Proceeds benefit

- Lutheran World Relief
- Muscatine Center for Social Action
- New Era Lutheran Church

"If you feel like you're losing everything, remember that trees lose their leaves every year and they still stand tall and wait for better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

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* * *

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made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Written by
**Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke**
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

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World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

22

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson,
Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren,
Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann,
June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador,
Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and
loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in
need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

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By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

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Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

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Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

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Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

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Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

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The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)

Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



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ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

- As of September 2020, the full Bible has been translated into 704 languages, the New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,551 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1,160 other languages.

We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson,
Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren,
Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann,
June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador,
Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and
loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in
need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
10/23		
10/30		

Fellowship Hostesses

10/2	Lynne Leacox, Lynn Bendt Becki Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/9	(cookies only)
10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



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

New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

Presented by permission of
Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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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."

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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 2022 Newsletter

Pastor Kirsten Lee
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Check us out at www.neweralutheran.com
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- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

Because Martin Luther believed so confidently that salvation was promised by God, he taught us how to be honest about our sinful humanity. Luther compelled us to see ourselves as sinners, lost without the grace of our Savior. And because of our sinful humanity, we are in need of and promised forgiveness and salvation. This holiness Christ gives you allows you to be a saint. Luther taught us that we are equally sinner and saint. Trusting that we are more than hopeless sinners, we can be honest about our sins. Instead of hiding them in shame, we can bring them to God trusting that our Gracious God will forgive and grant new life.

- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

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Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

OCTOBER

Ushers – Dan & Shirley Petersen

Alter Guild – Becki Petersen

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

10/2	Paul Mayes	
10/9	Lynne Leacox	Becki Petersen
10/16	Shirley Petersen	
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10/16	Janie Swails, Vi Levetzow
10/23	Joyce Rudbeck, Carolyn Leach
10/30	Lynne Leacox, Nancy Henke



Birthdays

3 – Alice Hermann
3 – Hunter Johnson
7 – Arye Wulf
10 – Grant Probasco
11 – Tim McCleary
20 – Candace Harland
21 – Jamie Wittmer
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30 – Kelsea Nichols
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Anniversaries

9 – Gary & Becki Petersen
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New Era Dinner Theater Presents

Church Basement Ladies

Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Adults \$30
Children \$20

In the **New Era Community Building**
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson, including the best seller *Growing Up Lutheran*

Presented by permission of Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN



Written by
Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Proceeds benefit

- Lutheran World Relief
- Muscatine Center for Social Action
- New Era Lutheran Church

"If you feel like you're losing everything, remember that trees lose their leaves every year and they still stand tall and wait for better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it."—attributed to Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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

New Era Lutheran Church



October 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

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

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)
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Lutheranism's and why they still matter....

Dear friends in Christ,

If you think the changes we've gone through as a society and church have been stressful, consider what it was like for Christians during the reformation.

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 30th. It is a Sunday we give thanks for the gifts of the reformation and how they continue to influence our beliefs in God and our worship practices. So, what are the gifts of the reformation and why should we still care about them? Here are a few:

- Ephesians 2: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them."

The verse that started it all: Ephesians 2: 8 was the verse that inspired Martin Luther to call for changes in the Catholic church. The reformation allowed Christians to learn and trust that their salvation is a gift of Grace from God. Your salvation is not dependent on anything and rests forever in the unbreakable promise of our gracious God.

- “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.” (Letter by Martin Luther addressed to fellow reformer Phillip Melanchthon on August 1, 1521)

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- Martin Luther and his fellow reformers cared about what you hear in church today.

With a bold focus on the grace of our Lord, Luther and his colleagues changed the way Lutheran pastors preach. “By changing preaching to focus on proclaiming the gospel, the reformers hoped to make sure God’s promises could be freed to inspire people of faith. When that happened, people could trust Jesus as their Savior.” (Lutheran handbook, 54). The reformers taught pastors how to name the law in the Bible, which holds a mirror to our sin and need for Jesus and the gospel, which is God’s active love given to us. This is still taught to Lutheran pastors today. When you

read or hear scripture passages, consider how the text states our need for Jesus (law) and the good news God promises (gospel).

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We can thank Luther for translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. Before his work in 1522, the Bible was only accessed by priests. People could not own a Bible or read a Bible in their own home. Luther believed that religious education began at home, but families would need help in learning and teaching about God and the Bible. Luther’s Small Catechism was written in a way to make religious education accessible for families. We still use the small catechism today in teaching confirmation.

Martin Luther and his many partners in the reformation were boldly faithful to the gospel. They courageously risked their lives because they refused to stop their efforts of proclaiming the gospel and helping ordinary people have access to hearing, reading, and understanding God’s Word. Most importantly, the reformers never sought their own glory, but rather the glory of God. For all who continue to share God’s good news, for all who continue to learn God’s Word and teach God’s Word, for all who seek God’s glory above their own—we thank you! And we pray for Christ’s strength, courage, and faithfulness to lead you.

God bless you,

†Pastor Kirsten†



Remember in Prayer

Porche Carle, Rosie Dietrich, Joan Hart, Michael Maxson, Keelon Erickson, Vicki Loving, Kari Thoren, Terry Hampton, Mary Dickinson, Alice Hermann, June Weber, Troy Davis, Linda Meador, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, family and loved ones of Robert Burr, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

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Communion Asst. – ??

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Church Basement Ladies



Friday, October 7
Saturday, October 8
6:00 PM
Sunday, October 9
4:00 PM

Written by
Jim Stowell and
Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by
Drew Jansen

Adults \$30
Children \$20

Dinner Menu:
Hamburger Hotdish,
New Era Green Beans, Jello Salad,
Roll, Beverage, Dessert

In the **New Era**
Community Building
3455 New Era Road, Muscatine

Reservations Required
Call **563-299-4710** – Joan
or **563-263-0881** – Nancy

Inspired by the books of Janet
Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson,
including the best seller
Growing Up Lutheran

Proceeds benefit
• Lutheran World Relief
• Muscatine Center for Social Action
• New Era Lutheran Church

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Troupe America Inc, Minneapolis, MN

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember that trees lose their leaves every
year and they still stand tall and wait for
better days to come."—Unknown

* * *

"Laughter is the shortest distance between
two people."—Victor Borge

* * *

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in
order to learn how to do it."—attributed to
Vincent van Gogh

Still time to get your tickets!!

Tickets for the dinner & show are \$30 for adults
and \$20 for children through age 12. They can
be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich at

563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke at 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Church Basement Ladies c/o New Era Lutheran Church, 3455 New Era Road, Muscatine, IA 52761.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Council meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Pastor Kirsten. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Dick Leach, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner, and Pastor Kirsten.

Becki Petersen gave devotions. Joan Dietrich will have devotions in October.

Minutes were discussed; Eric made motion to accept minutes. Vicki seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion on treasurer's report. Joan is to call Republic Services (waste pickup) to inquire about the price increase (previously \$54, now \$74). Discussed CD rates, memorial fund, etc. Joan made motion to accept treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Committee Reports

Care & Concern: The committee members were not able to visit anyone last meeting. Will visit this next meeting and deliver some gift bags. Some of the people that are visited are Larry Irwin, Bill Halling, Betty McMahon, Phyllis Beck, Janet Hull, Emogene Sorgenfrey, Tom Kindler, and Shirley Allchin.

Property: Dick fixed two toilets in the fellowship hall, repaired roof in sacristy to stop leak, called for the parsonage garage door to be repair, parsonage bathtub was replaced and screen door replaced. Reinstalled dishwasher as it was not hooked up properly. Garage door (broken spring) needs to be fixed. Vicki wanted to know about renters and when can they move in. Renovation is tentatively set to be done by the end of September. Types of renters and rent fee/taxes (nonprofit/profit) on parsonage

were discussed. Will discuss further at future meetings.

Dick talked to Tim McCleary regarding bell tower. Floor needs to be fixed first before painting. Eric fixed roof in sacristy. Need to work on parking lights in front of church.

Bill Turner was inquiring about gym door – no keys for door. Dick provided Bill with key. Bill also wanted water turned on in gym.

Dick and Eric set up cleaning day for trees – Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Painting fellowship hall – have not heard from Jeremy Hice or Terry & Sons regarding bids.

Weeds need to be pulled on side of gym and back of building.

Worship & Music – New liturgy being used until the end of October. Pastor would like to install Council officers on Sunday, September 18.

Mary would like to start choir sometime after play (possibly October 16th or 23rd).

Joan will be setting up the oil candles on the alter for Sunday, September 18.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Play – ticket reservations are coming in slowly. Sign-up sheets will be made available for filling dishes, serving food to tables, cleanup, parking attendants, gym cleanup, etc. Lynne Leacox and Becki Petersen are in charge of decorations; Nancy Henke and Joan Dietrich are in charge of tickets. Discover Muscatine will be meeting with Bill Turner for photos, etc. on Monday, September 19.

At 2021 congregational meeting, a committee was formed for continued maintenance. One item needing to be looked at - electrical. During Voices of Peace performance, they had interference with their equipment. The back lights were turned off to rid the interference. Need to have someone look into electrical and building structure and which is more

critical. Need guidance and ranking priorities. Pastor asked Adam to meet with the building committee to do assessment and prioritize in getting legwork done – bids, etc.

New Business

CertaSite will be at the church for recertification of fire extinguishers and emergency/exit lights in October.

Muscatine's CROP walk will be Sunday, October 2. Becki will provide more information.

Pastor brought up the Tanzania project. Synod wants to start a group partnership. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Adam Turner made motion to adjourn; Dick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich, Secretary

You're made for faith



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there." Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are

made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.—
A.B. Simpson

Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I *was* baptized" but used the present-tense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."—from *The Wired Word*

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!—Janna Firestone

Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in

those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.
—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

Marked by grace
Hymn writer Augustus Toplady, who penned the classic 18th-century hymn “Rock of Ages,” also wrote these words:

My name from the palms of his hands
Eternity will not erase
Imprest on his heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.

Cents-ible stewardship
During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)
The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies. When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

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ISAIAH 40:8

God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?



- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)

Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got

situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Christian symbol

COINS—The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



October 2022

September '22							November '22						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 2 pm - CROP WALK	3	4	5  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	6	7  6:00:00 PM dinner theater	8  6:00:00 PM dinner theater
9 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship  4:00 PM dinner theater	10	11 9 am - Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome.  6 pm - Council Mtg	12 9:00 am - Care & Concern-Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	13	14	15
16 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	17	18	19  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	20	21	22
23 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	24	25	26  5:30 pm - Bible Study Dinner included @ Gloria Dei	27	28	29
30 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	31	Sun, Oct 2 & 9 - Choir practice after Worship Sun., Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday Sun., Oct 9 - Pastor Appreciation Day Sun., Oct 30 - Reformation Sunday Mon., Oct 31 - Reformation Day				

ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

Meet Yabes!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**Sunday – Oct. 2, 2022
2 pm**

Muscatine River Front

Contact Becki Petersen or Shirley Petersen to sign up
for walk or for donations

CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Photo: Ryan Shanley

PR 1841

SEEDS, CHICKENS & YOU

the winning combo to end hunger

CROP
HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY CWS

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

*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)

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