

New Era Lutheran Church



April 2023 Newsletter

New Era Lutheran Church

3455 New Era Road
Muscatine, IA 52761

Sunday School: 9:30 am (Sept-May)

Worship Services: 10:30 am

Contacts:

Joan Dietrich, Office Admin

Office: 563-263-5356

Office Hours: Tues & Wed – 10 am-2 pm

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Building Rental: Gloria Batteau

Church, Fellowship Hall, Gym

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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)



Easter Breakfast



There will be Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 9 at 9-10:30. Dick and Carolyn Leach will make biscuits and gravy and pancakes with sausages. There is a sign-up sheet for fruit, breads, casseroles, etc. There will be no free-will offering, just a potluck.



Remember in Prayer

Skeeter Dugan, Stuart Schmitt, Wayne Everhart, Larry Irwin, Luke Probasco, Dana Devey, Kim Dierickx, Jack Hull, Jerry Lichtenwald, Shawn Young, Janet & Tom Kindler, Ryan Gladwell and Alexandria Brush and Emory Ann Gladwell, Emogene Sorgenfrey, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Shirley McDaniel who passed away. She will be deeply missed by all.



Ushers – Dick & Carolyn Leach

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Dick & Carolyn Leach

Readers

Flowers

- 4/2 Paul Mayes
- 4/9 Dan Petersen
- 4/16 Shirley Petersen
- 4/23 Joyce Rudbeck Joyce Rudbeck
- 4/30

Fellowship Hostesses

- 4/2 Shirley Petersen, Becki Petersen
- 4/9 Easter Breakfast – Potluck
- 4/16 Ann Mayes, Lynne Leacox
- 4/23 Joyce Rudbeck, Carissa Johnson
- 4/30 Carolyn Leach



Thank you to everyone that donated and helped with the service and lunch for Shirley McDaniel. We

appreciate your kindness. New Era Lutheran Church was always a special place for our family.

The McDaniel Family



Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1 – Linda Schneider 20 – Chuck & Candace Harland
- 1 – Gavin Markham
- 3 – Jerry Lichtenwald
- 3 – Justin Wulf
- 4 – Bev Hull
- 8 – Lynn Bendt
- 11 – Sarah Perales
- 17 – Grady Wulf
- 19 – Eric Leacox
- 23 – Dan Petersen
- 30 – Mike Hermann

**New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting – Sun., Feb 19, 2023**

Meeting scheduled for Valentines Day was postponed; had a quick meeting after church. Present were Vicki, Dick, Eric, and Becki. We discussed the possible interim pastor and agreed to pursue him coming. It was decided to meet with Gloria Dei to discuss a financial package before Eric left on Thursday for a week.

Since the meeting, Gloria Dei wasn't able to meet with us that quickly. They want to have a meeting with us and the interim pastor on either March 14 or 15. I told Bryan Sievers we had Lenten services on the 15, but he thought maybe we could meet afterward. The interim pastor will let us know Monday.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen
President

**New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting – Tues., Mar 14, 2023**

Present: Dick, Eric, Vicki, Joan, Becki, and Adam

Eric led devotions; Becki Petersen will have devotions in April.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Vicki made motion to accept the February minutes; Dick seconded motion.

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

Care & Concern: Met in March. Did not make visits but made plans to do special things at Easter (baskets, cards, etc.) to let members they are thought about.

Property: Eric installed mirror in hallway and new light bulb in cloak room. Dick took care of candles/clock in the sanctuary while Joan was on vacation. Window between buildings needs to be fixed. Tom Atkinson said to use wood puddy, wait two weeks and use oil base primer and paint.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: NA

Worship & Music: Choir sang in March. Pastor Phil Jorgensen will officiate first two Sundays in April (2nd & 9th).

Youth: NA

Old Business: Easter Breakfast will be at 9 am on Sunday, April 9 with Leach's preparing biscuits and gravy and pancakes. There is a sign-up list for other dishes.

New Business: Brian Seiver @ Gloria Dei lined up meeting with possible interim and Becki Petersen Monday, March 20 at 6:30.

Adam made motion to adjourn meeting; Joan seconded motion.

Respectfully

Joan Dietrich
Secretary

Not resuscitation — resurrection!

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This "escape tower" was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus' resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God's power, Jesus didn't merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — "Peace be with you."—adapted from *Homiletics*

How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had

cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just “Woman ...” — and then a gardener: “Woman ...”

Except then — “Mary” — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. “Mary.” Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn’t the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus’ mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.—Heidi Hyland Mann

Death doesn’t win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter’s backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter’s foreground means death won’t win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life “isn’t all daffodils,” we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will “give us the joy, and it’s going to be in the heart of pain that we

go through as well,” added the pastor. “And that just makes me draw closer to God.”

The God who hides

Isaiah declares, “Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior” (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn’t our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

“Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ,” said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant.” So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

“Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with our resurrection.”

—Watchman Nee

“For most of us, the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait.”—

C.S. Lewis

Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group

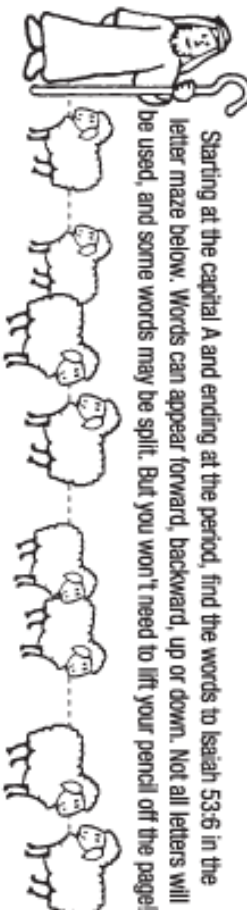


of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.—Madeleine L'Engle, *The Rock That Is Higher*

Puzzle!

Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

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All we like sheep have gone astray, we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all
 Isaiah 53:6, NRSV

Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

Complete trust, even amid suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that "anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt."

But Christ's final words — committing himself into his Father's hands — "ring a different note," adds Gerson. "This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough."



Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray, we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all
Isaiah 53:6, NRSV

Easter errors

The Resurrection occurred without a hitch, but church services aren't always as fortunate. Pastors shared Easter goofs with Outreach magazine — and you can share them for Holy Humor Sunday on April 16.

- During a prayer, one pastor said, "Jesus, we love you to death." Though it was fitting, the slip-up led to chuckles.
- Actors in Passion Plays apparently tend to fall off crosses. After one did so and muttered a swear word, the pastor said, "At least he's the unbelieving thief." And when a man playing Jesus had to be reattached to his cross, a pastor said the real Jesus "would have climbed back on out of love."
- Shocked by the early rehearsal time, a guitarist asked, "Whose idea was it for Easter to be in the morning?"
- Before leading a sunrise service, a pastor was informed of a member's death. So he was briefly "thrown ... when she walked up in the early morning shadows." Turns out there'd been a name mix-up. "I believe in resurrection power," says the pastor. "But I was more than a little surprised at what I was seeing!"

Bible Quiz

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes

Answer: B (See John 13:1-17.)

Facts, not futility

"If the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen," writes Mary Fairchild, "then the apostles were all fakes and everyone throughout history who has ever testified of Christ's power is a liar. If the resurrection did not happen, then Jesus Christ has no dominion over life and death, and we remain lost in our sin, destined to die. Our faith is useless." Paul sounds a similar tone in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, saying unless Christ was raised, any preaching about him is "in vain" and our faith is "futile" (ESV).

Praise God that he doesn't leave us in suspense. Unlike Thomas, we don't need to doubt Easter's good news. With utter certainty, Paul continues: "But in *fact* Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (vs. 20, emphasis added). So let us rejoice with the apostle: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs. 57)!



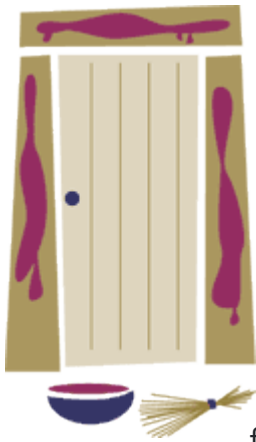
Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially upstairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

Christian symbol



DOORPOSTS — The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but

the blood signaled that the Destroyer should "pass over" those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.



Pistachio Bread Recipe

Lil' Luna

Easy and delicious Frosted Pistachio Bread is especially sweet. The best part is it's glazed and involves no yeast!!

PREP TIME - 5 mins

SERVINGS - 2 loaves

COOK TIME - 45 mins

CALORIES - 1920 kcal

TOTAL TIME - 50 mins

INGREDIENTS

1 box yellow cake mix

2 3.4-oz. boxes pistachio instant pudding mix

4 eggs

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/8 cup water

1 cup sour cream

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix ingredients together until well combined. Set aside.

Grease 2 regular size loaf pans and sprinkle some sugar and cinnamon (I use 2 TB sugar and 1 tsp. cinnamon) on the inside. Pour half the batter into each pan. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Let cool.

Combine 2 cups powdered sugar, 2 TB melted butter, 1 tsp. almond extract, and 1 tsp. vanilla to make a glaze. Add a few tablespoons of milk, until it's the consistency that you like. Drizzle glaze over bread and sprinkle with chopped pistachios. Serve and enjoy!

PUZZLE

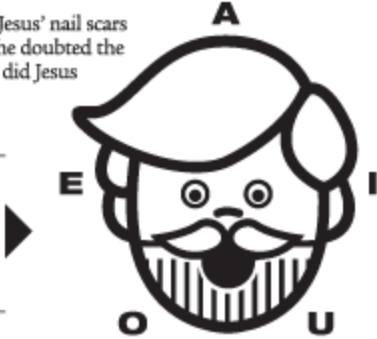


SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
 _ _ _ _ _ y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
 bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
 s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed," John 20:29, NIV

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.










What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

APRIL 2023

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2  Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6  Maundy Thursday	7  Good Friday	8																																																																																				
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9  Easter Morning Breakfast  Easter Sunday	10	11 9 am – Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome 6 pm  Church Council	12 9 am - Care & Concern Meet @ McDonald's	13	14	15  Earth Day																																																																																				
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