

New Era Lutheran Church



March 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

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Thurs – 10 am - Noon

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



Surrender

What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.—Max Anders



Lenten Soup Suppers will begin at 5:30 pm on Wed., March 8 for four weeks. Please come for fellowship.

Lynne Leacox will lead the Lenten Bible Study following the Soup Supper at 6:15 pm. We will be collecting food items for the Food Pantry at each meeting.



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

Lois Thornburg, Cash Sturgeon, Luke Probasco, Todd Stanger, Randy Meador, Dana Devey, Kim Dierickx, Jack Hull, Jerry Lichtenwald, Shawn Young, Janet & Tom Kindler, Ryan Gladwell and Alexandria Brush and Emory Ann Gladwell, Vicki Loving, Catherine Dittmer, Emogene Sorgenfrey, and loved ones who are in need of prayer support.



Ushers – Ann & Paul Mayes

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Eric & Lynne Leacox

Readers

Mar 5
Mar 12 Lynne Leacox
Mar 19 Paul Mayes
Mar 26 Ann Mayes

Flowers

Fellowship Hostesses

Mar 5 Becki Petersen, Nancy Henke
Mar 12 Carolyn Leach, Shirley McDaniel
Mar 19 Lynne Leacox
Mar 26 Vicki Hampton, Gloria Batteau

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 - Mary McCleary
7 – Skeeter Dugan
9 – Gary Ruser
12 – Steven Batteau
17- Joan Dietrich
18 – Bev Duan
18 – Kris Gladwell
21 – Brad Cole

Anniversaries

Josiah & Stephanie Anderson
17 – Chad & Renee Johnson
20 – Skeeter & Bev Dugan

Resurrection faith

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The coronavirus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

“I realized I only half-believed I was going to die,” he tells *The Christian Post*. “In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally.”

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural

evidence for Easter's main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it's a wake-up call for Jesus' followers to act. "The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world," Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. "But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust."

"God doesn't just give us grace; he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace."—Joni Eareckson Tada

* * *

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."—John Wooden

* * *

"Still round the corner there may wait / A new road or a secret gate."—J.R.R. Tolkien

* * *

"To experience genuine human love, to be part of a community of love is to experience the presence of God."—John J. McNeill

legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."

Prove it!

In *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who's brought to his courtyard. "So, you are the Christ. You're the great Jesus Christ!" he sings. "Prove to me that you're no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!"

Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It's easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, "If only God would give me a sign"?

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the "sign of Jonah," a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it's meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man's brothers weren't predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then "they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly. —adapted from *The Wired Word*

A God who knows



Come be energized

After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a

It is easy to dismiss or ridicule the idea of God on a cross. But I would have a hard time following a philosophical abstraction. At some points in our lives, we may need a God who has entered our darkest places of uncertainty and depression. A God who can comprehend the fear of a death without significance. A God who knows the silence of God.—Michael Gerson

I wear it when I dust

Some churchgoers chatted about their customized T-shirts from a service project, sharing compliments they'd received while wearing them in public. One chimed in, saying, "I wear mine when I dust." Two nearby staff members raised their eyebrows, likely thinking it wasn't the outreach strategy they had in mind.

Jesus gave us all a "service project" via the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Tasks include telling people about Jesus, baptizing and teaching his commands. In a way, we all received a Great Commission T-shirt at our baptism. When do you wear yours? And how are your projects going? Whether you're serving in the community or at home (even by dusting), remember Who you represent!
—Julie Lee

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

Puzzle

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R
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“Consider”

Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief:

We are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of the air of small account:

Our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards us too.

Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil, Yet are most fair: What profits all this care and all this coil?

Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks;

God gives them food: Much more our Father seeks to do us good.

—Christina Rossetti

A God with scars

If anyone has ever asked you why a loving God allows suffering, you’ve probably developed a theodicy. That’s a fancy word for defending belief in divine goodness despite evil’s existence. Theologians who tackle this profound mystery note that God himself wasn’t spared from pain. Despite his sinlessness as true God, Jesus endured crucifixion as true man. As proof of that sacrifice, his body was scarred.

Those marks feature in a poem by English pastor Edward Shillito. Seeing wounded combatants return from World War I, he wondered how the Gospel could seem like good news to them. When Shillito realized that Christianity alone features a God who suffered, he wrote “Jesus of the Scars” to offer comfort and hope. The poem concludes:

The other gods were strong; but thou
wast weak;

They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God’s wounds speak;
And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.

Limiting distractions

Getting a cell phone is a major milestone for kids — and a huge decision for parents. Despite our boys’ complaints, we made them wait longer than most of their peers. We emphasized accountability, monitoring and time limits. Out of curiosity, I checked my own phone usage. It was more than double the limit we set for our kids! I came up with reasons (excuses, really) why I needed more time.

But God stopped me in my tracks and prompted me to use a “time’s up” notification. It helps me be intentional about removing distractions. What diverts you from God’s best? Are you listening to him and then redirecting your attention? God, speak clearly — and prompt us to listen!—Janna Firestone

Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?



- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus’s daughter
- C. A widow’s son
- D. Lazarus

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

Lighthearted blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

Christian symbol



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?"

PUZZLE

A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plants grow here to coil and jump <i>(also a season of the year)</i> to expand and get bigger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seeds are planted in when watered, these another word for see
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For as the _____ makes the _____

_____ come up and a _____ cause

_____ to _____, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousn

St Patrick's Day Pistachio Cupcakes



Total Time: Prep: 10 min
Bake: 20 min + cooling
Yield: approx. 1 ½ doz

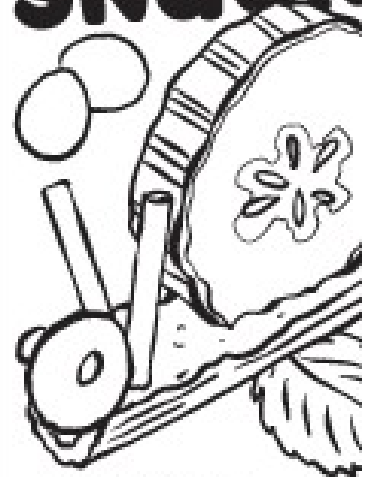
Ingredients

1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
2/3 cup sugar
1 package (3.4 ounces) instant pistachio pudding mix
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1-1/2 cups milk
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup cream cheese frosting
Green sprinkles *and/or* chocolate jimmies

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, pudding mix, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, combine the eggs, milk, oil and vanilla. Stir into dry ingredients until combined. Fold in chocolate chips.
2. Fill foil or paper-lined muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake at 375° for 18-20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely. Frost and decorate as desired.

SPRINGTIME SNACK



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!










What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese in the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese spread.

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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5	6	7	8 9 am - Care & Concern Meet @ McDonald's  5:30 pm - Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm - Bible Study	9	10	11																																																																																											
12 	13	14 9 am – Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome 6 pm 	15  5:30 pm - Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm - Bible Study	16	17 	18																																																																																											
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EVERY SUNDAY 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship Choir Practice after Worship		February 2023 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					April 2023 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
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