

New Era Lutheran Church



May 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

Thurs – 10 am - Noon

Email: neweralutheran@gmail.com

Organist & Choir Director:

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

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

May 14, 2023



**Isaiah 66:13 - "As a mother comforts her child,
So I will comfort you."**

May 29, 2023

What is Memorial Day?

Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have lost their lives in our nation's service. Though some form of Memorial Day has been celebrated in various areas of the country beforehand, Memorial Day was officially proclaimed by General John Logan on May 5, 1868 and was observed later that month on May 30 when flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried at Arlington Cemetery.



SUNDAYKIDZ



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Remember in Prayer

Shirley Allchin, Nolan Stevenson, Kimberly Miller, Beverly Heden, Stuart Schmitt, Wayne Everhart, Larry Irwin, Dana Devey, Kim Dierickx, Jack Hull, Jerry Lichtenwald, Janet & Tom Kindler, Ryan Gladwell and Alexandria Brush and Emory Ann Gladwell, Emogene Sorgenfrey, and all who are in need of prayer support.

Asking for prayers for the Sudan area uprising, mainly in the capital city of Khartoum and the Darfur region,. Cash and Olivia Sturgeon were in that area and have friends there.



May 14, 2023 is the last day for Sunday School. Join us again for Sunday School in September! Have a wonderful summer!



MAY

Upcoming Worship Services Led by:

May 7 & 14 – Rev John Meyer

May 21 & 28 – Pastor Phil Jorgensen

Worship Attendants

Ushers - ?? Alter Guild - ??

Communion Asst. - Ann Mayes, Vicki Hampton, Shirley Petersen

Readers

Flowers

5/7

5/14

5/21

5/28

Shirley Petersen

Shirley Petersen

Fellowship Hostesses

5/7

5/14

5/21

5/28

Vicki Hampton, Carolyn Leach

Becki Petersen

Jan Lichtenwald

Alice Hermann

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

4 – Dallas Wulf

7 – Bill Halling

8 – Mindy Kahl

8 – Neil Wulf

13 – Amery Anderson

14 – Angela Wulf

16 – Catherine Alexander

19 – Cassidy Probasco

22 – Lydia Anderson

23 – Chuck Harland

27 – Renee Johnson

27 – William Anderson

28 – Rob Gladwell

31 – Darrian Plowman

12 – Nikki & Matt Kurz

19 – Aaron & Rachel Turner

23 – Tim & Mary McCleary

24 – Luke & Cassidy Probasco

30 – Eric & Lynne Leacox

New Era Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Tues., Apr 11, 2023

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

Becki led devotions; Joan will have devotions in May.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. Adam made motion to accept the March; Joan seconded motion.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. Joan made motion to approve treasurer's report; Adam seconded motion.

Care & Concern: Easter baskets were made for shut-ins. Dick Leach is taking Ken McDaniel to the Muscatine Y and to McDonald's. Dick brought lunch for Bill Halling.

Property: Dick is getting bid for trees. Trees behind the parsonage and church/fellowship hall need to be cut down.

Front door was unlocked on Sunday. Please remember to check doors before leaving.

It was reported a couple of roof caps are missing. The outside of the church above doors will be painted this summer when weather permits by Becky Bettis and Dick Leach. Eric replaced outlet in church. There are two more that need to be replaced.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach: Council asked Eric to check with Lynne to see if there will be VBS this summer.

Food donations were gathered during Lent soup supper/Bible study and give to MCSA.

Worship & Music: Choir sang in March. Pastor Phil Jorgensen will officiate first two Sundays in April (2nd & 9th) and last two Sundays in May (21st and 28th).

Youth: NA

Old Business: Last month it was discussed to do a \$600 MCSA sponsorship via MCSA communication letter that was sent to the church. It was decided to donate \$250 to MCSA instead of a sponsorship.

New Business: Council set a church yard cleanup for Saturday, April 29 and to be put in bulletin.

Annual meeting is set for Sunday, June 25.

Levsen Organ Company sent New Era a new price increase maintenance contract to be signed.

Council received a letter from Attorney Hargrafen's office regarding Ken Parrish estate.

Joan made motion to adjourn meeting; Dick seconded motion.

Respectfully

Joan Dietrich
Secretary



Prepare to be empowered

Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."

Life immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul."

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

"God has not called you to your life mission in spite of who you are; he has called you precisely because of who you are."

—Reggie McNeal, *Practicing Greatness*

* * *

"You shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back."

—Maya Angelou

* * *

"Happiness is like jam. You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself."

—Unknown

Final exams

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?" Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, "I'm cramming for my finals." —Florence Littauer, *Women's Devotional Bible*



"Universal Praise"

See how nature now rejoices
in this sunny month of May;
Still to God from all its voices,
giving praises day by day. ...

In the glad green woodland alleys,
every bird its anthem trills!
While flocks feeding in the valleys,
herds upon a thousand hills.

Join with every creature living,
here on land, in air, or sea,
In one great worldwide thanksgiving,
yielding praise, O God, to thee!

All around us swells the chorus,
from this goodly world of ours,
And earth's altar stands before us,
sweet with incense from her flowers.

So with nature still confessing,
his great goodness, let us pay
Grateful homage for each blessing,
of this sunny month of May.
—Anonymous

Breath of the Spirit

The breathing I did yesterday will not keep me alive today. I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or my life will cease. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment in order that I may continue to enjoy him and to work the works he has assigned me.—Augustus Toplady

Our proper role

"We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges." This quip may bring a chuckle, but it's also a good reminder as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (May 18 this year). Jesus directed his disciples to spread the good news he had taught them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ..." (Acts 1:8, NRSV).

While professional lawyers and judges certainly have their place in society and can serve God by working for genuine justice for all, we are not called in daily life to judge others' morality or relationship with God. "Do not judge," Jesus says, "and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one of the most powerful forms of witness to Christ? Forgiveness.

The power of (God's) light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer?

Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27:1); "Let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5); "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Darkness isn't bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Come as you are

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they'd have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he'd be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: "Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, 'Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.'"

We're all unworthy to receive Jesus' body and blood, but that's exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!
—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Jokes only a mother could love

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?
Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?
"Don't be knotty."



Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

Resilience in the storms

"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus says in John 16:33 (NIV). Christians, in other words, should expect sufferings and setbacks that challenge their spiritual resilience. Tim Kight, in a blog post titled "The Resilient Christian," offers these reminders for times of adversity: Trust God. Pray fervently, deeply and boldly. Dig into God's Word. And praise God regardless of your circumstances. "When you are in the storm, trust God and don't flinch," Kight advises.

With that game plan and attitude, we can pray with the prophet Habakkuk: "Though the fig tree does not bud ... and the fields produce no food ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (3:17-18, NIV).

Honor your mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

Christian symbol



TONGUES OF FIRE — Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. HEAV | 6. OGETHE |
| 2. ABLE | 7. ES |
| 3. AY OF PENTECOS | 8. ONGUE |
| 4. ONGUE | 9. A |
| 5. PIRI | 10. IND |



"When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:






- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.

MAY 2023

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