

New Era Lutheran Church



August 2023 Newsletter

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 – 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

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Bulletin & Newsletter: Joan Dietrich

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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

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

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

Contact Pastor for emergency care:

Pastor Aleese Kenitzer,

Shepherd of the Cross, 563-264-0784

Daily reasons to celebrate

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer.

Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.



Remember in Prayer

Betty McMahon, Kimberly
Guy, Myra Davis, Peggy

Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, Nolan Stevenson, Stuart
Schmitt, Wayne Everhart, 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.



Worship Attendants

Ushers – ??

Alter Guild – ??

Communion Asst. – ??

Readers

Flowers

8/6

8/13

8/20 Joan Dietrich

8/27

Fellowship Hostesses

8/6 Carolyn Leach

8/13 Nancy Henke

8/20 Ann Mayes, Carolyn Leach, Alice Hermann

8/27 Voices of Peace Potluck - Main meat dish –
bratwurst. Please bring side dishes

Birthdays

5 – Deanna Timm

5 – Keith Batteau

10 – Brent Ford-Johnson

10 – Kathryn Harland

12 – Nancy Henke

14 – Craig Schneider

16 – Rebecca Gladwell

Dotson

17 – Kelley Harland

21 – Dick Leach

22 – Cain Kahl

24 – Carol Stalkfleet

30 – Beth Young

31 – Janie Swails

Anniversaries

4 -Neil & Chris Wulf

14 – Paul & Ann Mayes

19 – Dan & Shirley Petersen

21 – Craig & Linda Schneider

30 – Travis & Angela Wulf



Mahalo and Aloha, for being a part
of the celebration of life, for Jerry
and Lois Thornburg, the Hawaiian
Honeymooners.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Jerry & Lois
(Kemper) Thornburg on Saturday, August 12, at New
Era. Food will be provided by Guy & a Grill.

Come join the family for the celebration.

Come listen to the music ministry of



Voices of Peace

Southern Gospel Music Ministry

New Era Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 27, 2023,

10:30 a.m. during worship



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net

Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

A love offering will be taken to support their
ministry. A potluck will be held after worship. A
sign-up sheet for salads, vegetables, desserts will be
available at the back of the church. Brats will be
furnished.

New Era Lutheran Church
Council Meeting – June 11, 2023

The New Era Church Council met on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Present were Joan Dietrich, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, Mary Maxson, Becki Petersen, Janie Swails, and Adam Turner. Devotions were led by Eric. Vicki will have devotions in August.

Council positions were assigned:

Becki Petersen – President; Youth
Adam Turner – Vice President, Property
Eric Leacox - Treasurer
Joan Dietrich – Secretary
Vicki Hampton – Care & Concern
Janie Swails – Fellowship/Outreach
Mary Maxson – Worship & Music

Minutes from the June meeting had been emailed out previously. Eric made motion to approve the June minutes; Adam seconded motion. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report – Need to send treasurer's report to Janie Swails and Mary Maxson as they are the new council members.

Becki was wondering if there is a report that would indicate how much of the budget has been spent. Eric will look into this to see if a quarterly report can be generated.

Adam inquired if we could change the fiscal year from July 1 thru June 30 instead of January 1 thru December 31 to make preparing annual reports easier.

Adam Turner made motion to approve treasurer's report; Mary Maxson seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Care and Concern – Vicki report they are visiting, sending out cards, and making calls. Dick Leach helps Kenny McDaniel. Bill Halling has fallen a couple of times. Vicki has offered to pick up Vi Levetzow and Betty McMahon if they need rides.

Vicki indicated she needs stamps for cards; Joan will purchase stamps.

Property – Nothing to report this month. Becki indicated Dick Leach will furnish contacts for future reference. It was also noted Cain Kahl will fix gym roof.

Worship & Music – Mary met with Pastor Aleece for the July 16 joint service to work out bulletin, etc.

Sunday Worship

July 16 – joint service with SOTC

July 23 – Pastor Nate video

July 30 & Aug 13 – Pastor Ralph Anderson

Dan Petersen expressed an interest in becoming a lay pastor. Mary indicated it is an involved process. Eric is going to call the office to find out more about it as they said there is a streamline process.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach – Becki, Janice Lichtenwald, and Lynn Bendt finished one LWR quilt and tied and bind two more.

Youth – Vacation Bible School was successful. Sunday School Kick-off will be Sunday, September 10.

Old Business – 2023 Theater production is Godspell, September 29, 30, and October 1.

New Business – Mary brought up the idea of partnering/supporting the Tanzania project that was brought up last fall (see September 2022 newsletter). Will see if there is interest in this.

Will take photo of new/current council members at next meeting for the church website.

Joan moved to adjourn meeting; Eric seconded. Motion approved

Respectfully,

Joan Dietrich
Secretary

August 2023, LSI Bulletin

Back to School Month

Saying goodbye to summer and transitioning into a new school year can be a difficult time for many adolescents, especially those with emotional or behavioral disorders.

LSI has 27 therapists that provide mental health counseling to individuals of all ages through in-person therapy in over 20 locations across the state and virtual therapy in all 99 counties. In 2022, our Clinical Services team served more than 1,000 clients, totaling 14,000+ therapy sessions for Iowans of all ages.

In addition, our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team wraps care around a child's entire family to empower them with skills like anger management, healthy decision-making and problem-solving. In 2022, the BHIS team served over 250 clients, resulting in more than 3,900 therapy sessions for children and their families.

Through LSI's Trauma Informed Care program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Waterloo, our staff work with the teens by completing trauma assessments on each adolescent and providing a summary to their juvenile court officers. The LSI staff also facilitate both individual and group therapy sessions with the teens to help them deal with their trauma and work through it in a productive way. If you or someone you know could benefit from therapy – even from the comfort of your own home – reach out by calling 888.457.4692 or visiting LSIowa.org/therapy.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We

know there are more Iowa children and families in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065. Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.



The following items serve as "little guideposts on the footpath to peace," according to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor's except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God's out-of-doors.

"Make the world a better place one person at a time. Start with yourself."

— Linda Poindexter

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad."

— Miles Kingston

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

— attributed to Vincent van Gogh

"Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

Rainer Maria Rilke



Thy will be done

Placing ourselves completely into God's hands can be challenging. If you need help in that area, pray these words from

Thomas à Kempis: "Lord, you

know what is best. May your will decide what shall be done. Give what you will, how much you will and when you will. Do what you know is best for me. Do what pleases you and brings your name most honor.

"Put me where you will, and deal with me in all things as you please. I am in your hand — turn me backwards and forwards, turn me upside down. Here I am, your servant, ready for anything, for I have no desire to live for myself but only to live perfectly and worthily for you."

Christ still calls us

The rugged hills of Galilee drop down to meet the sea

Where burly men still mend their nets, still fish there eagerly.

The sea's the same place where Christ said,
"Lay down your nets and heed

My call to love all people, and serve them in their need."

"I'll help you fish for humankind," he told them long ago.

His call's still heard, His help's still real today, as we well know.

Yes, people still are leaving "nets" wherever they might be,

And as disciples still go forth to serve Christ willingly.

—Peggy Ferrell

Save-worthy

I was teaching a junior high Sunday school class about salvation and that age-old question, "Are you saved?" Before diving in, I asked the students what they collect and why. Answers included sports cards, coins, stamps and rocks — items you may have saved as a child too. We save because items seem special or interesting to us. Collecting implies worth and a desire to keep something safe.

In our class, that led to discussion about what it feels like to be saved by or for Jesus ... to be the "savee" instead of the "saver." How amazing that God deems us special, interesting and worthy of safekeeping. We are God's precious, well-loved "collection," and he's reserving space and preparing a place for each one of us.—Julie Lee

Ingredients for true success

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.—George Washington Carver

Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

Shape that symbolizes love

Part of a stove used for baking

Color made by red and yellow

A present

Clothing a girl wears

Something you open to go into a room

Opposite of soft (sound)

To take a long walk

A high body temperature

Items used to build or fix things

Edge of the sea

Home for a bee

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Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tooks, shore, hives Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV

When we least deserve love

“Love me when I least deserve it,” says a Swedish proverb, “because that’s when I really need it.” My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis

scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respooled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they’d start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus’ arrest. But Jesus didn’t treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we’re at our worst, hurting God’s heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it. —Heidi Hyland Mann

August

God in his own right hand doth take each day each sun-filled day — each rare and radiant night, and drop it softly on the earth and say: “Touch earth with heaven’s own beauty and delight.”—Jean Blewett (1862-1934)

A hunger for the heights

In a sermon titled “Sky Hunger,” Stan Purdum explores Ephesians 1:3, where Paul writes about God blessing us “in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (ESV). The expression “sky hunger,” says the pastor, “suggests that to be the best earthbound people we can be, we need to lift our eyes to a higher place — the *highest* place.”

While on a mission trip in Kentucky, Purdum discovered that many residents refer to pastors as sky pilots. “What better role can a pastor

have," he asks, "than to point people to the skies, to the God Most High?"

The Easter anthem "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," which celebrates our ultimate destination, sums up another definition of sky hunger:

Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, *the skies*, alleluia!

"That to which our holy restlessness, our inner discontent, our sky hunger points us is Christ," Purdum concludes. "Sky hunger is a blessing from God, Paul tells us, to bring us into Christ, to fullness of life and to life eternal."

Bible Quiz

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches. Which list includes a city that is not among those seven?



- A. Ephesus, Thyatira, Philadelphia
- B. Smyrna, Laodicea, Galatia
- C. Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna
- D. Sardis, Ephesus, Laodicea

Answer: B (See See Revelation 2–3.)

Remembering St. Bartholomew

On August 24, the church commemorates St. Bartholomew, who is listed among the disciples. Because he is never named in the book of John — while a follower named Nathanael is mentioned only there — many scholars believe Bartholomew and Nathanael were the same man. Further, Bartholomew's name is next to Philip's in Matthew, Luke and Mark, while in John, Philip introduces

Nathanael to Jesus, who says, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" (John 1:47, NRSV).

Besides the Bible, Eusebius, the father of church history, is first to mention Bartholomew.

Eusebius reports that Bartholomew gave a Hebrew translation of Matthew's gospel to Christian converts in India. Bartholomew also preached in Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt and Armenia, where he was killed about 71 A.D. Tradition holds that Bartholomew was either beheaded or flayed alive and then crucified upside-down.

God is watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."


The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God's sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Christian symbol

HARP — This multi-stringed musical instrument is associated with David, who played to soothe King Saul and later wrote many Psalms. The harp also represents praise music in general, as well as all the instruments people use to glorify God (see Psalm 71:22). The idea that angels play harps comes from Revelation 14:2 ("And I heard a

voice from heaven like the sound of ... harpists playing on their harps").



PUZZLE

Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)
 ○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)
 _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)
 _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)
 ○ _ _ _ _ _

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)
 _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)
 _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)
 _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
 the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Mix at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!

**Vacation Bible School was held Saturday,
July 12. Theme - The Book of Jonah!**



AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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	Joan - out of office - Aug 4 - Aug 13																																																																																																							
6 10:30 am - Sunday Worship	7  Purple Heart Day	8 9 am – Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome 6 pm  COUNCIL MEETING	9 9 am - Care & Concern Meet @ McDonald's	10	11	12																																																																																																		
13 10:30 am - Sunday Worship w/Pastor Ralph Anderson	14	15	16	17	18	19 Aviation Day																																																																																																		
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27 10:30 am - Sunday Worship with "Voices of Peace"	28	29	30	31																																																																																																				
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