

New Era Lutheran Church



2023 OCTOBER NEWS LETTER

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 – 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



Meet Vicar Bunny Stoutes, Interim
Pastor

Greetings, Friends and Members of
New Era!

I'm Bunny Stoutes, a final-year
seminary student at Wartburg

Theological Seminary in Dubuque. My internship was
successfully completed at Grace Lutheran in the Merle
Hay neighborhood of Des Moines with Pastor Mike
Schmidt.

Before starting seminary, I worked as a church media
manager, then office manager, and then as the director of
youth and families. Some of my gifts for ministry are
creative pastoral imagination and communication. I love
to look at issues the church faces and spend time
collaborating to create unique, contextual solutions that
create excitement and help us grow spiritually as a
community.

The opportunity to work with New Era is a dream come
true. Typically, when final-year students return from
internship and begin their fourth year of classes, we
bounce around from location to location, filling in as
pastors take a leave of absence, sabbatical, or vacation
day. It's hectic and doesn't allow for deep growth.
Partnering with New Era and SE Iowa Synod in this new
way opens up possibilities for long-term, creative
solutions, showcasing new ways of being the body of

Christ together. It is a gift to accompany one congregation for the year and my hope is that it provides stability for New Era as well.

Outside of academics and ministry, I learned to quilt during the Covid lockdown and have successfully completed 14 quilts of various sizes while at seminary! My current project is to create a stole for each student graduating as a pastor or deacon in May 2024. (If anyone has a pattern for a deacon stole, I'd love to see it!)

I'm a mother to two young adults, Brooklyne (22) and Courtney (21). They moved together to East Lansing last month from Texas (our home state) after serving the summer at our ELCA church camp. Courtney served in the Army and just started at Michigan State, and Brooklyne is working her way up the ladder in the medical field. I can't wait for them to share the experience of their first snowfall!

As I am in classes each weekday, the best way to get in touch with me is email: BunnyStoutes@Gmail.com. For emergencies, please text me at 337-368-2781. Please be sure to include your name, as I don't have everyone's number in my phone directory yet.

As we begin this partnership, I do have one question for each of you: What is your hope for New Era ten years from now? I can't wait to ponder dreams, hopes, and possibilities together!

Peace be with you today and always,
Bunny Stoutes

Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. - Romans 12:13



Bill Bendt, Linda Schneider, Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekkel, Connie Schnekkel, 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 – Eric & Lynne Leacox

Alter Guild – Ann Mayes

Communion Asst. – Eric & Lynne Leacox

Readers

10/1 Eric Leacox
10/8
10/15 Shirley Petersen
10/22
10/29

Flowers

Fellowship Hostesses

10/1 No Treats in Fellowship Hall – Cookies
10/8 Carolyn Leach
10/15 Shirley Petersen, Vicki Hampton
10/22
10/29 Janie Swails

Birthdays

3 – Alice Herman
3 – Hunter Johnson
7 – Arye Wulf
10 -Grant Probasco
11- Tim McCleary
20 – Candace Harland
21 – Jamie Wittmer
26 – Cianna Kurz
30 – Kelsea Nichols
31 – Carolyn Cole

Anniversaries

9 – Gary & Becki Petersen
25 – Mindy & Cain Kahl
28 – Chris & Carolyn Cole
28 – Nick & Kari Thoren
31 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Sunday Supply Pastors

Oct 1 – Vicar Bunny Stoutes
Oct 8 – Pastor John Meyer
Oct 15 - Vicar Bunny Stoutes
Oct 22 - Pastor John Meyer
Oct 29 - Vicar Bunny Stoutes



Thank you so much for helping me celebrate my 88th birthday with your gift & thoughtfulness! It was much appreciated! Shirley Allchin

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes September 12, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, Sept 12 at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, Becki Petersen, Adam Turner and Joan Dietrich.

Vicki Hampton had devotions; Mary Maxson will have devotions in October.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Only correction is Vicar Bunny Stoute's last name is Stoutes. Vicki made motion to approve minutes; Eric seconded motion.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. Vicki made motion to approve treasurer's report; Mary seconded motion.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): It was reported Linda Schneider has been moved to Genesis West for therapy. Dick is helping a lot with Kenny McDaniel. Rally Day bags, cards, and lap robes will be distributed. Janet Kindler does visits also. Dick Leach also checks on Bill Halling.

Property (Adam Turner): Window by ramp has been fixed and storm windows put up. Fellowship door lock is taking keys custody! WD40 was

sprayed, but Eric suggested silicone spray before a lock smith is called to replace lock. Robert Shedder was called to check the noise coming out of the fellowship hall vent between the main door and gym door. Gym roof has been fixed and more branches removed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): Choir practice starts this Sunday (Sept 17) after church. Play cast will be singing two songs at Shepherd of the Cross and New Era on Sunday, Sept 24. The substitute organist, Sheryl Ringens, is doing a great job playing the organ on Sundays when Mary isn't available.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Sewing group has finished two more quilts for LWR. They will be shipped out in October to Grace Lutheran Church, then to Cedar Rapids, and then Minnesota.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day party went well with children and adults attending.

Old Business:

- Pads for defibrillator were ordered and given to Lynn Bendt. It was suggested we have a refresher course on utilizing the defibrillator.
- CertaSite contacted New Era to have the yearly fire extinguishers and exit door lights checked – scheduled for Oct 17.
- Reviewed supporting missionaries. Mary reported she received an email on how to support missionaries and has ten new missionary names.
- Clean-up day is Saturday, Sept 23. If you can't make it on the 23rd, volunteers can assist anytime. Tall weeds between fellowship hall and gym plus weeds between fellowship hall and church need to be pulled besides cleanup up on the front part of the church.
- It was suggested when New Era is done sharing pastors the end of October that we go to 10 am worship service. Will check with Bunny Stoutes to see if this is doable for her. Sunday School would then be from 9-9:45 am.
- Lynn Bendt has a prayer quilt and wanted council's approval to hang in dining room. Council approved.

- Baptismal cloths with New Era Lutheran Church embroidered on them need to be replenished.
- Bunny indicated she would like a directory and history of New Era Church. Joan will provide this information.
- Dan Kuckuck sent Letter of Agreement for Interim Ministry for Bunny Stoutes to be signed. Bunny graduates seminary the end of May. Need to contact Bunny for “About Me” for newsletter.
- In earlier meetings, it was discussed to have Church Windows (accounting program) to change the fiscal year to fit our annual meeting. Church Windows replied this was not a good idea. Most users ended up asking to have it put back to original fiscal year.
- Also suggested to put the annual budget report at the very end of the annual meeting report.

New Business – NA

Janie made motion to adjourn the meeting, Eric seconded motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Joan Dietrich



Joy in the Word of God

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—*The Table Talk of Martin Luther*

Starting a ripple effect

Shortly before his death, 80-year-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he’d quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn’t afford medications. “Don’t tell a soul where the money came from,” he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. “If they ask, just tell them it’s a blessing from the Lord.”

Thanks to the farmer’s generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. “I was honored he allowed me to do that,” she said, “and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life.”

Childress wasn’t wealthy but “always gave what he could,” said daughter Tania Nix. “I think he felt like he couldn’t not give,” she added. “Giving that way, that just got on his heart.” After word spread about Childress’ generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress’ surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They’re probably not related, he wrote, but he’d feel proud if they were. “A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus,” the Oklahoman wrote, and “[his] story inspires me to be a better man.”—adapted from *The Wired Word*

"Silence roots out the weeds of our souls and levels the rocky ground in which we've grown."—Sister Joan Chittister

"The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."—Søren Kierkegaard

"I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: 'Go down again — I dwell among the people.'"—John Henry Newman

*"Old gardeners never die. They just spade away and then throw in the trowel."
—Herbert V. Prochnow*

Total trust

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

"God is God," says Elliot. "Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks, "Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next."

What is lament?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we're raised to stay silent if we can't say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn't seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God's perspective. As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what's troubling us. He knows that this world's woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.—
Janna Firestone

A prayer that I may do God's will

The following is the Third-Step Prayer in Alcoholics Anonymous. It's surely a prayer we all can make, that God's will — not ours — may be done and guide our lives.

God, I offer myself to thee
to build with me and to do with me as
thou wilt.

Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I
may better do thy will.

Take away my difficulties,
 that victory over them may bear witness
 to those I would help of thy power,
 thy love and thy way of life.
 May I do thy will always!

For the glory of God

In 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul quotes a maxim apparently well known in Corinth at the time — “All things are permitted” — but then qualifies it: “not all things are beneficial [or] build up.” What if we applied his words to our decisions? For example, should we enjoy a cigarette if we’re old enough to do so legally but others present have struggled to quit? Technically, it would be “permitted” to have a smoke, but it might not “build up” or be “beneficial” for others nearby.

What if we know it’s not *necessary* to say prayers *every* night, but we’re teaching a child habits of the faith? Although skipping prayers a few nights a week is “permitted” because it won’t make or break *our* faith, maintaining that routine — in shorter form if everyone is exhausted — may help “build up” the child spiritually.

What if we *all*, by God’s help, made it a habit to “not seek [our] own advantage but that of the other” — to do all, as Paul writes, “for the glory of God” (vv. 24, 31)? From minor daily choices, to how we vote, to how we use our money and resources, to much more, it could make a huge difference! Surely, Paul believed so.—Heidi Hyland Mann

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover the names of some Old Testament prophets. Then unscramble the circled letters to describe what prophets are.

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I was called to preach to the people of Nineveh but ran from God instead. (My book is #32 in the Bible.)
 -----○-----

I spoke God’s message when the temple was being built. (My book is #37.)
 -----○-----

Israel’s unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. (My book is #28.)
 -----○-----

My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. (It is #23.)
 -----○-----

I had dreams and visions. (My book is #27.)
 -----○-----

Because of my predictions, I was often in danger and angered officials. (My book is #24.)
 -----○-----

I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. (My book is #30.)
 -----○-----

My book contains descriptions of strange visions. (It is #26.)
 -----○-----

PROPHETS ARE -----

Answers: Jonah, Haggai, Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Messengers

Gathered as one body

On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord’s Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord’s Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are

unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

“This do in remembrance of me,” Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ’s sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ’s family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. “In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north. All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth” (John Oxenham).

Thank you, Lord!

We’re never alone

In many sources, the author of the hymn “Never Alone” is listed as anonymous, but in several, Ludie Carrington Day Pickett (1867-1953) is credited. The words powerfully capture the assurance that amid life’s storms — sin, temptation, danger, loneliness, care — and, finally, even at the end of this life, Jesus promises to be with us. Two stanzas proclaim:

I’ve seen the lightning flashing
And heard the thunder roll,
I’ve felt sin’s breakers dashing,
which tried to conquer my soul;
I’ve heard the voice of my Savior,
He bid me still fight on:
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

The world’s fierce winds are blowing —
Temptation’s sharp and keen;

I have a peace in knowing
My Savior stands between;
He stands to shield me from danger
When all my friends are gone:
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

Bible Quiz

Not long before Jesus’ arrest, he said: “I did not come to _____ the world, but to _____ the world.” Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to

Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)



God’s helpers

God’s providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, “But if God loved you wouldn’t he send you food and shoes?” The boy replied, “God told someone, but [they] forgot.”—George Buttrick

One-way ticket

While on a red-eye flight from California to Philadelphia on a stormy night, evangelist Tony Campolo sat near someone who wanted to chat. Upon learning that Campolo was a Christian, the seatmate said, “I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia,” meaning you can get there by various modes of transportation. “We all end up at the same place.”

When Campolo woke from a nap and saw that the descending airplane was circling Philly in the fog, he told his neighbor, "I'm glad the pilot doesn't agree with your theology." Confused, the man asked what Campolo meant.

"The people in the control tower are giving instructions to the pilot: 'Coming north by northwest, three degrees, you're on beam, don't deviate from the beam.' I'm glad the pilot's not saying, 'There are many ways into the airport. There are many approaches we can take.' I'm glad the pilot's saying, 'There's only one way we can land this plane, and I'm going to stay with it.'"



Christian symbol

WATER — Water flows through the Scriptures: the Flood, the Red Sea crossing, water springing from a rock to nourish Israelites in the wilderness,

the healing of Naaman's leprosy when he washed in the Jordan River, John baptizing Jesus and, chiefly, our baptism into Christ. The water of baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and God raising us from death (drowning in sin) to life everlasting. Just as we cannot live without physical water, neither can we truly live without the living water Jesus gives (see John 4:13-14).

MISSIONARY- MINDED PRAYER

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.



What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet



What you do:

1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.



Rally Day Sunday, September 10

Rally Day kicked off the Sunday School year with the celebration of everyone's birthday. Games, donuts and activities were enjoyed by all. Special gifts were prepared for those that can't always make it to church.

Janie brought back the birthday luncheon where everyone sat at the table of their season's birthday. The celebration concluded with cake and ice cream!



OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 2 PM - CROP WALK  4 pm - Dinner Theater	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8 Choir Practice after Fellowship	9  Columbus Day	10 9 am – Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone is welcome to join us. 6 pm  COUNCIL MEETING	11 9 am - Care & Concern Meet @ McDonald's	12	13	14	
15 Choir Practice after Fellowship	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 Choir Practice after Fellowship	23	24  United Nations Day	25	26	27	28	
29  Reformation Sunday Choir Practice after Fellowship	30	31 Happy Halloween  Reformation Day					 MUSCATINE CROP HUNGER WALK ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME MUSCATINE CROP HUNGER WALK is partnering with MUSCATINE APPLEBEE'S 306 Cleveland Street for Together We Care fundraiser Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. When you order from the special Together We Care menu, 50% of the food sales will support the Muscatine CROP Hunger Walk. 20% of all money collected is returned to Muscatine Food Pantry and 5% is returned to Bag of Blessings weekend program in Muscatine elementary schools.
Sunday Worship Oct 1 - Vicar Bunny Stoutes Oct 8 - Pr John Meyer Oct 15 - Vicar Bunny Stoutes Oct 22 - Pr John Meyer Oct 29 - Vicar Bunny Stoutes		Every Sunday in October: Sunday School - 9:30 am Worship - 10:30 am					