

New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.







What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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bulletin - Items due by Wednesday night
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Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
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(Sign-up sheets available at church)



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Worship Attendants

Ushers – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

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Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
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Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
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The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

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New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

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Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

_ R _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ N _ B _ T _ L _ W _
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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.






What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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.



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September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



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www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
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Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

_ R _ _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ _ N _ B _ _ T _ L _ W _
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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.




What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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10  * Rally Day 9:30 am	11 	12 9 am – Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome 6 pm 	13 9 am - Care & Concern Meet @ McDonald's	14	15	16 Rosh Hashanah																																																																																				
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24	25 Yom Kippur	26	27 8 am - Cooking Day for play (chicken, bacon, etc.)	28 Placement of Road Signs for play	29  New Era Dinner Theater Godspell - Sept 29 & 30, Oct 1	30																																																																																				
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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

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During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
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Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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 PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

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Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.



What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

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Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
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“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
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“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
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“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.







What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
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What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
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3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

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Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

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God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

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1:3-4, NIV

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 —Thomas Merton



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Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.






What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.




What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

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Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Puzzle!

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Illustration: A key with a heart-shaped head is shown opening a treasure chest. The chest contains a scroll with a question mark. Surrounding the key and chest are several hearts and a small box with a cross on top.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

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 _ V _ E _ V _ I _ S _ _ G _ R _ N _ V _ _ R _
 _ I _ Y _ N _ V _ N _ Y _ V _ I _ _ B _ L _ F _
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 _ K _ S _ R _ O _ R _ K _ K _ R _ Z _ M _ H _

1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.



What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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bulletin - Items due by Wednesday night
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Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
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Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

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Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

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(Sign-up sheets available at church)



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1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
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Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

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Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
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Baby Shower

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New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.







What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

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(Sign-up sheets available at church)



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September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



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During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

out
 for call
 insight aloud you look for hidden and God.
 and cry for **it** as is treasure then understand the
 understanding and you will of fear
 you will then understand the
 PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

_ R _ _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ _ N _ B _ _ T _ L _ W _
 _ V _ E _ V _ I _ B _ _ G _ R _ N _ V _ _ R _
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 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ _ O _ R _ G _ S _ _ O _ L _ B _
 _ K _ S _ R _ O _ R _ K _ K _ R _ Z _ M _ H _

1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.






What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

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Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
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Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

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Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and the knowledge of God.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

_ R _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ N _ B _ T _ L _ W _
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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.




What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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24	25 Yom Kippur	26	27 8 am - Cooking Day for play (chicken, bacon, etc.)	28 Placement of Road Signs for play	29  New Era Dinner Theater Godspell - Sept 29 & 30, Oct 1	30																																																																																				
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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

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Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
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“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
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“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
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SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.



What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

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1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
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4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

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God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

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K	I	Z	B	V	I	H	U	L	I	Z
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1:3-4, NIV

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Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.







What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

out
for call
insight aloud
and cry for
understanding and
if
you will
then understand
of fear
and
search silver
for hidden
treasure
and
the knowledge of
hidden things
and the Lord

Answer: If you call for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

_ R _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ N _ B _ T _ L _ W _
 _ V _ E _ V _ I _ S _ G _ R _ N _ V _ R _
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 _ R _ M _ Z _ O _ O _ N _ B _
 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ V _ I _ H _ U _ L _ I _ Z _ O _ O _
 _ L _ U _ B _ L _ F _ R _ Z _ O _ O _ Z _ B _ H _
 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ O _ R _ G _ S _ O _ L _ B _
 _ K _ S _ R _ O _ R _ K _ K _ R _ Z _ M _ H _

1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.






What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Illustration: A key with a heart-shaped head is shown opening a treasure chest. The chest contains a scroll with a question mark. The maze consists of various words and phrases arranged in a grid-like structure, with some words in bold.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

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 _ V _ E _ V _ I _ S _ G _ R _ N _ V _ R _
 _ I _ Y _ N _ V _ N _ Y _ V _ I _ B _ L _ F _
 _ R _ M _ Z _ O _ O _ N _ B _
 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ V _ I _ H _ U _ L _ I _ Z _ O _ O _
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 _ K _ S _ R _ O _ R _ K _ K _ R _ Z _ M _ H _

1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.




What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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bulletin - Items due by Wednesday night
each week

Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the
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Check us out at www.neweralutheran.com

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

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4 pm

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Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

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(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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.



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1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
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Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

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September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
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The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

The New Era council met on Tuesday, August 8, at 6 pm. Present were Janie Swails, Mary Maxson, Vicki Hampton, Eric Leacox, and Becki Petersen. Adam Turner came a bit later. Absent was Joan Dietrich (on vacation).

Minutes of the previous meeting had been previously emailed out and read by the council. Mary moved that the minutes be approved. Janie seconded.

Eric Leacox went over the treasurer's report. A bill from Enerspect Medical as presented to replace the pads on the defibrillator for \$88.77. Bill was approved to pay. Adam suggested we change our fiscal year from January to December to July to June to coincide with the annual meeting. Eric will look into how that can be done with the program he uses.

Committee Reports:

Care & Concern (Vicki Hampton): Nothing new to report

Property (Adam Turner via Dick Leach): The gym roof ridge has been fixed and honey locust tree has been trimmed.

Worship & Music (Mary Maxson): An organist has been secured to play for Mary when she is not at church. Her name is Sheryl R. from Grace Lutheran.

Stewardship/Fellowship/Outreach (Becki Petersen): Our little sewing group worked on finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. It was suggested to make baby blankets for LSI. We will be getting a roll of batting donated from Joann Fabrics.

Youth (Janie Swails): Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 10, with an inter-generational event before church at 9:30 am. A potluck with meat provided will be held after church. Members are to bring a salad or vegetable. After lunch, a "birthday party" will be held with cake and ice cream.

Old Business – It was suggested we cut back on treats.

New Business – Mary suggested we find a missionary to support. She will look into it. A play meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 9 am at the church.

During the meeting, a phone interview was held with Vicar Bunny Stoute. She is a senior seminary student at Wartburg College in Dubuque. She will be able to do pulpit supply for us in the absence of a pastor. She is coming September 10, October 1 & 8, then November and December. She is doing an overseas requirement for her schooling in January, then come February until she graduates in May. We are very pleased to welcome Vicar Stoute. (pronounced "stew"). Adam moved to end the meeting, seconded by Eric. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).
—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
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1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.



What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

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Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

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(Sign-up sheets available at church)



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September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



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www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

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Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

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The Voices of Peace*



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Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

out
for call
insight aloud
and cry for
understanding and
if
you will
then understand the
of fear
and
search silver
for hidden
treasure
and
the knowledge of
God.

Answer: If you call for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."



Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

_ R _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ N _ B _ T _ L _ W _
 _ V _ E _ V _ I _ S _ G _ R _ N _ V _ R _
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 _ R _ M _ Z _ O _ O _ N _ B _
 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ V _ I _ H _ U _ L _ I _ Z _ O _ O _
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 _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ O _ R _ G _ S _ O _ L _ B _
 _ K _ S _ R _ O _ R _ K _ K _ R _ Z _ M _ H _

1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.







What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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New Era Lutheran Church



2023 SEPTEMBER 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

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

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



New Era Dinner Theater
Friday – September 29, 2023
Saturday – September 30, 2023
6 pm
Sunday – October 1, 2023
4 pm

Godspell will be the 28th production of the New Era Dinner Theater. The show will be presented on Friday, September 29; Saturday, September 30; and Sunday, October 1 in the New Era Community Building at 3455 New Era Road in rural Muscatine, next to Wild Cat Den State Park. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Reservations are required for all performances.

In the show, a diverse group of people help Jesus tell parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comedy. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man," and "By My Side."

The New Era production is directed by Bill Turner with musical direction by Bob Danner. The cast includes Adam Turner, Courtney Cooper, Jenni Colbert, Chelsea Geldenhuys, Hunter Haller, Antonio Martinez, Delene McConnaha, Nathan Paulsen, Presley Reimers, Kari Thoren, Cali Van Zandt, and Stevie Whitehead

This year's dinner will consist of tossed salad, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, New Era green beans, dinner roll, pumpkin bar, and beverage. The dining room, theater, and restrooms at New Era are handicap accessible.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief, Muscatine Chapter of the Salvation Army, and New Era Lutheran Church.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children through age 12. They can be ordered by calling: Joan Dietrich, 563/299-4710 or Nancy Henke, 563/263-0881. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at Godspell Tickets, c/o Joan Dietrich, 2854 Rolling Meadow Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Volunteers needed for play preparations:

Saturday, Sept 23 – Cleanup day (yard, gym, etc.)

Tues., Sept 26 – Purchasing food, etc. for play – Carolyn Leach

Wed., Sept 27 – 8 am – Cooking Day (chicken, Bacon, & prepping foods)

Thurs., Sept 28 – Sign placement on roads

Fri., Sept 28, Sat., Sept 29, & Sun., Oct 1 –

Before dinner - Need food preparers for meal - prepare salads, set out buns, desserts, fill salt/pepper shakers, etc.

After play – feed cast & cleanup

(Sign-up sheets available at church)



Mike Maxson, Phyllis Fuhlman Beck, Ron Loga, Vicki Loving, Myra Davis, Peggy Schnekel, Connie Schnekel, 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 – Mike & Alice Hermann

Alter Guild – Lynne Leacox

Communion Asst. – Paul & Ann Mayes

Readers

Flowers

9/3	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/10	Lynne Leacox	
9/17	Shirley Petersen	Dan Petersen
9/24		

Fellowship Hostesses

9/3	Shirley Petersen
9/10	Lynn Bendt & Jan Lichtenwald
9/17	
9/24	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 – Janet Kindler	17 – Chris & Angie Markham
5 – Matt Kurz	30 -Gary & Maureen Ruser
5 – Tom Kindler	
9 – Mila Provasco	
13 – Becki Petersen	
13 – Paul Mayes	
15 – Dennis Weih	
16 – Ann Mayes	
16 – Dianna Burger	
22 – Ken McDaniel	

Sunday Supply Pastors

Sept 3 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 10- Vicar Bunny Stoute

Sept 17 – Pastor John Meyer

Sept 24 – Pastor Ralph Anderson



September 10
Luncheon &
Birthday Party



Rally Day!!

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, Sept 10th. Rally Day will start at 9:30 am.

There is a sign-up sheet for a luncheon and birthday party to be held after worship service on Sept 10. We are welcoming back our Sunday Schoolers with Rally Day, welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoute - our new pulpit supply, and celebrating everyone's birthday with a cake and ice cream party.



It is also requested everyone bring a baby picture of themselves for a "Guess



Who" game. Give photos to Lynne Leacox this Sunday if possible. She will return photos after the luncheon/birthday party!



www.voicesofpeacemusic.net
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz, Mike Brown, Don Olson (Elaine Olson)

Dear Friends of New Era,

What an awesome time of worship we had with you all Sunday morning!!! We appreciate your continuing invitations through the years.

Thank you very much for the generous financial gift and delicious meal. It was great time of fellowship after.

Please keep us in your prayers as we seek Gods' direction for future opportunities of ministry. Also, we are praying for a minibus.

*Bles-sings to you all
Bud & Carolyn McAtee, Ruth Franz,
Mike Brown, Don & Elaine Olson
The Voices of Peace*



Baby Shower

The Snider family are inviting all to a baby shower for Charlotte Rose on Sunday, September 10 in the New Era Fellowship Hall from 2-5 pm. Parents are Mat Snider and Anna Cook and grandparents are Steve and Diana Snider.

New Era Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 8, 2023

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Respectfully,
Becki Petersen



Going to school with Jesus

In Faith Takes a Name, Dwight

E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?—Janna Firestone



The value of solid relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

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Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media

chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All

those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

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PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

Safe & sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.—James Bryan Smith

Prayer as a place for play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to "set down [her] frantic internal voices" and "lean back into stillness." But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream:

"My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He's gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I've been asking far too much of him."

Andrew's dream was a revelation: "Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage," she writes. "We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play."

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it's safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God's secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.—based on "Happy Camel,"

Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles.

The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Continuing education

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus!

But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."




Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”

Christian symbol

STONE TABLETS —



The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.



PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

R	G	S	Z	M	P	N	B	T	L	W
V	E	V	I	S	G	R	N	V	R	
I	Y	N	V	N	Y	V	I	B	L	F
R	M	Z	O	O	N	B				
K	I	Z	B	V	I	H	U	L	I	Z
L	U	B	L	F	R	Z	O	O	Z	B
K	I	Z	B	O	R	G	S	O	L	B
K	S	R	O	R	K	K	R	Z	M	H

1:3-4, NIV

“Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”
 —Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*
 * * *

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”—
 Mother Teresa
 * * *

“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”—
 Abigail Van Buren
 * * *

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
 —Thomas Merton



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.






What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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10  * Rally Day 9:30 am	11 	12 9 am – Sewing group meet at church. Bring sack lunch. Everyone welcome 6 pm 	13 9 am - Care & Concern Meet @ McDonald's	14	15	16 Rosh Hashanah																																																																																				
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24	25 Yom Kippur	26	27 8 am - Cooking Day for play (chicken, bacon, etc.)	28 Placement of Road Signs for play	29  New Era Dinner Theater Godspell - Sept 29 & 30, Oct 1	30																																																																																				
 * Rally Day - Sept 10 9:30 am Potluck & Birthday Party after Worship		August 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>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</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	31			October 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>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</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	31					 Sept 15 - Oct 15
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