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*Be watching for
an email update
on the next
property council
meeting .*



Ready for Easter's surprise?

You, your family and neighbors, and me have felt in recent times a similar despondency the women felt on Easter morning. What could they do? What will we do when surprised with Good News?

From the time they watched Jesus body be taken down from the cross, and observed the tomb where His body was laid, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several others planned to honor Jesus with proper embalming. By the time they had prepared the spices and ointments it was the Sabbath, so they rested all that day, as required. [Luke 23:55-56]

We are not so good at waiting, honestly, we are not! We have things to do, places to go especially on Sunday. If your Sunday regularly includes time for worship – give yourself a hug! I pray that your participation in worship and making time for home devotions is like a hug from God! We all need the hugs God's Word gives us, good days and bad days.

God's Word, songs, communal prayer, confessing and forgiving as we are forgiven, strengthens fellowship with our church family and feeds our souls in ways nothing else in the world can. That is God's promise, and it is testified to by our best days of being church together. It is each of our responsibility to see and greet, and be greeted by, our fellow members and guests at all church activities, and in the community.

It was with their mutual faith that these women of Easter morning prepared and waited for the first day of the new week to go and honor God's Son, the one who had shown them how real God's love for them is. Without their leader in truthful Word and Spirit they were lost.

Or were they? They were on a mission to honor the one who had shown them platonic love not found with anyone else on earth. They were not the same persons as they had been before meeting Jesus. Would they have ever conceived of taking risks to honor anyone else, dead or alive? It was risky to be associated with, concerned about anyone who had been crucified for leading a movement which threatened the authority of Rome and the Temple.

But Jesus, His disciples and followers, were not a threat to anyone who belonged, or want to belong to the truth: new life in Christ.

Continued on pg. 2

And just as we live amidst competing truths and loyalty demands so had the disciples and followers of Jesus. Yet, with Jesus there is truth which reigns over all the controversies then and today. Love which proclaims, 'no matter what the world says, "you are loved by God!"' All may seem lost, as it did for these women who followed Jesus to the Cross and watched him die, yet they were not without hope!

The truth of God's love, with all its gracious empowerment lives within their hearts. All that Jesus had taught them, and we have learned in church, with the help of the Holy Spirit, about God's love for believers and all creation endures all things and will not pass away.¹

We are in difficult and uncertain times. Our deaths may come in an atomic flash or live to suffer financial trials due to inflation. But not even these change the truth of God's love for you. The women who, on the way to Jesus' tomb, had worried who would roll the stone away for them were despondent upon finding the tomb empty. The object of their devotion and mission was gone. The tomb was empty, and the Lord had something more wonderful for them than they could initially believe. Jesus will meet you too, in your skepticism and fill you with truth and love. Empower you to practice faith with expectation for what is unseen and yet to be.

¹ Luke 21:33-36; Mark 13:31; Matthew 24:35

The truth was not stolen but risen from death to life! New life Jesus shares with us now, in this troubled world, and later in the fullness of God's kingdom. Sharing this story proclaims hope and life for all who will believe. May our lives and churches shine with the light of Easter!

Pastor Auit

2025 Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday April 13th

Easter Choir Practice
8:30AM
Palm Sunday
Worship and
Confirmation Sunday
9:30AM

April 17th
Maundy Thursday
6:00 PM

April 18th
Crosswalk 12:00 PM
Good Friday Service
6:00 PM

**Easter Sunday
April 20th**
Easter Worship
9:30 AM

Chihoni News!!



The Outpatient Department walls are going up!

Selemani has worked tirelessly to get all the permits in place so construction could start. Relieved that everything is in place, he says in Paula's recent Update : "I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for being so patient and understanding while we waited for the building permits. Thank you to everyone for making this big dream come true. You are the reason for us being where we are right now. We are very busy working on the foundations for these two buildings. Below you will be able to see pictures of the progress on these buildings. God bless you all." (More photos here)

Finally, construction is underway at Chihoni! Praise God! Last month, we celebrated the groundbreaking, and now, since Selemani and his team had already made over 34,000 concrete blocks, construction has been proceeding at warp speed, in a manner of speaking. The team is working on two buildings simultaneously, the all-important Outpatient Department and the equally important guest house or hostel for the volunteers. Since Chihoni is several miles from Dodoma, the Medial Center has to provide housing for those who come to help.



The Hostel foundations are in the ground

Annual reports Needed:

As we approach the deadline for the annual report to the congregation, please submit your contributions as soon as possible to allow time for compiling the Annual Meeting packet. Please send your report to Nicole no later than April 11th.

Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

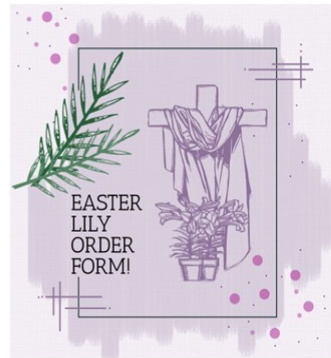
Thank you,

Church Council



April Prayer of reflection and what's to come.

Lord God, who makes paths through the sea and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:16, 19). We know whatever obstacle you face, God will open the way of life for you. Hosanna to the Son of David! So sang people long ago as Jesus entered Jerusalem, and so we will sing in welcome of Palm Sunday. May we learn from Jesus to love one another as he has loved us, and when Jesus says, "It is finished" (John 19:30), he doesn't mean his life or the crucifixion process. Rather, Jesus has accomplished salvation for all who desire it. Soon Easter Sunday will come and we will shout Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! As we will rejoice in our Lord's resurrection, and ours. We will remember after Christ's resurrection, the disciples demonstrate many responses: not only faith and joy but also doubt and confusion. No matter where you are on your faith journey. He did this for you.



We plan to decorate the Sanctuary with Easter Lilies and invite your help in providing lily plants. If you would like to order a lily, please complete the form below, attach your check, fold together, and place it in the offering plate. You may also mail or bring your check and order form to the church office.

You may pay with cash or a check payable to **First Lutheran** in the amount of **\$12.00** for each lily ordered.

The deadline for turning in order and payment is **Monday, April 14th.**

Lilies may be taken home after the Easter Service.

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of Lily(s) ____ **\$12.00/each** (Check payable to First Lutheran)

Given in honor of _____

Given in memory of _____

February Monthly Mission

In February, our monthly mission supported Lutheran Disaster Relief for the California Wildfires. Thanks to everyone's generosity, First Lutheran raised \$1,750. With our matching contribution, the grand total of \$3,500 has been sent on behalf of First Lutheran.

Bible Quiz

From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"

Answer on pg. 2



Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 27th

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 27th, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting and to vote on the updated constitution.

The updated constitution has been submitted to and approved by the synod. We encourage you to review the document and come prepared to vote.

In the weeks leading up to the meeting, council members will be available during Fellowship time to address any questions you may have. You are also welcome to contact council members at other times as needed.

Your vote to approve the updated constitution and presents at this meeting is essential, so please make every effort to attend this meeting. We look forward to your participation.

The blessing of fellowship

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.



—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Connie Zimmermann 04/08

Stan Kirchhoff 04/09

Judith Monroe 04/09

Lexi Frehse 04/11

Carol Ve Verka 04/16

Emily Cantu 04/17

Lynette Birkenholz 04/19

Landon Karsten 04/20

Marilyn Main 04/23

Andrew George 04/27

Janelle Karsten 04/30

Jennifer Sumpter 04/30

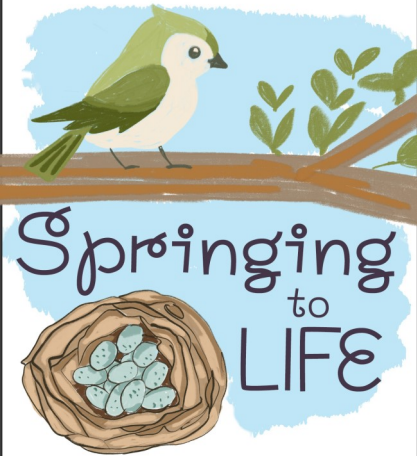


LSI Newsletter Story

A Story of Resilience: Aime's Journey from Refugee to Entrepreneur

In 2010, Aime fled the war in Congo, seeking safety for herself and her future. She first found refuge in Tanzania before making her way to the United States, later that year settling in South Dakota. There, she worked with Palance Autism, dedicating herself to helping others. During this time, Aime met her husband, and together they built a family, eventually welcoming five children. In 2012, Aime and her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began working with TPI, a wind energy company. For ten years, she juggled the demands of her job while raising her children. However, when TPI closed in 2022, Aime saw the chance to create a new path – one that would allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a career more aligned with her values.

Determined, Aime enrolled in Lutheran Services in Iowa's childcare program in October 2022. With their support, she launched her own daycare business in 2023. Today, Aime cares for six children in her daycare, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to grow while also staying closely connected to her own family. Aime's story is one of resilience, growth, and the courage to start over. From fleeing her home to building a business in a new country, she has transformed her challenges into opportunities for herself, her family and her community.

New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.


What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



Christian symbol

PALM BRANCH — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.





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Join us for Holy week Services
April 13th—20th



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 @ First Lutheran Lenten Service 6:00 pm.	3 Dorcas 9:00 am	4	5
6 Easter Choir Practice 8:30 am. Worship Service 9:30 am Evening Confirmation	7	8	9 @ St. Andrew's Lenten Service 6:00 pm	10	11	12
13 Easter Choir Practice 8:30 am. Palm Sunday Worship Confirmation Sunday Service 9:30 am	14	15	16 Lois Cr. 9:30 Am	17 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Crosswalk Noon Good Friday 6:00 pm	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY Easter Worship Service 9:30 am	21	22	23 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY	24	25	26
27 Worship Service 9:30 am Congregational Meeting Following Worship Council Retreat following meeting.	28	29	30			

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Pastor Hoovers Hours:
Monday & Tuesday
9:00Am- - 12:00 pm

Meetings with Pastor Hoover by Appointment.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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NEWTON, IOWA 50208

**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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&
(on Facebook at)
First Lutheran Church-
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Holy Week

Palm Sunday
9:30 Am

Maundy Thursday
6:00 Pm

Good Friday
6:00 Pm

Easter Sunday
9:30Am



Sunday Morning Worship
9:30am.

Coffee Hour
10:30am