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Proceeding with Gratitude and Seeking Unity.

November is the month of gratitude, family, and hope. These are grounded in truth and relationships. November is hallmarked by Thanksgiving gatherings in person with family and friends or by phone and cards with those you can't get together with this year.

This November also includes the determination of national and state elections which brings anxiety to friends and neighbors, as well as ourselves, because of the harsh and deceitful rhetoric employed by candidates and special interest groups.

Warnings of civil unrest from extremists of both parties.

What can you do about the division politics has produced affecting relationships with family and friends? How do you distance yourself from the extremists of your party?

Remembering our Baptismal unity with Christ Jesus offers security and hope.

November in the church year begins with All Saints Sunday: all redeemed from sins corruption by God's free gift of grace. We look not only heavenward for the Kingdom where there is no more death, tears, anger, disgrace; but also embody God's kingdom in loving others as we know and are empowered by God's reconciling love.

"Therefore strong peoples will glorify God; cities of ruthless nations will fear God.

4 For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. [Isaiah 25:3-4]

The power of God's love to bring unity in light and hope is reflected in the United Church of Christ covenant to be a people: United and Uniting. This is founded upon Jesus' prayer on the night He was arrested. A prayer to the Father for the unity of the church.

10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. I I And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. [John 17:10-11]

Unity does not mean consensus. Yet there is consensus to help the marginalized. Just different proposals as to how that help should come. Harsh distinctions over which party should get political credit or blame. To the point that any connection to God's will is lost or distorted.

"Yet we are a people who know and proclaim the power of God at work in the world. We proclaim the power of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, the one who said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life'" (John 14:6).

"We know that the power of truth is greater than the power of deceit. " In a recent statement [quoted above] "the members of the Conference of Bishops of the ELCA speak with one voice to condemn the hateful,

*The next
Property
meeting will be
November 6
6:30 Pm.*



deceptive, violent speech that has to readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate-fueled action.”

“We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit.”

“We recommit ourselves to speaking the truth and pointing to the One who is truth. We find courage in our collegiality and implore the members of the ELCA, as well as our partners and friends, to join us as we:

- Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.
- Commit to rigorous fact-checking, honoring God command to “test everything; hold fast to what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Reject the use of humor that normalizes falsehood, remembering that our speech “should always be gracious” Colossians 4:6).
- Boldly advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, emulating Christ’s love for the least among us.
- Courageously interrupt hate speech, standing firm in the knowledge that all are created in God’s image.
- Lean in with curiosity, engage with those who think differently and “put the best construction on our neighbors’ action” (Luther’s explanation of the Eighth Commandment).
- Amplify voices of truth.”

“Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, may we resist deception and lift up the truth that all members of the human family are created in the image of God.”

“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all as we respond to the Spirit’s invitation into this intentional commitment against deception and for the truth.”

“In Christ,”

“The conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”

This is the opposite of wrapping one’s religion in the flag, rather a call to commit ourselves to the truth, investigate rather than be manipulated by the claims of candidates, parties, and media. Seek the good God places in others as well as us.

Standing in God’s grace commitment to not justify one’s position over and against others with partial-truth. Nor repeat or tolerate manipulative deception and lies. Rather seek mutual understanding of the issues and God’s call to be salt and light, provide relief to the oppressed and marginalized without expectation of political gain. I know, that is not the way Washington (politics) works – but we are accountable to God.

May we as the church and her people remain a light of hope united and uniting, a refuge for those who desire to serve God’s will in the unity our Lord calls us to that we ‘be one’ and look to one another’s needs. In Christ is grace to be united and uniting.

5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access through faith to this grace in which we stand, and let us boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Let us be grateful this November and rather than perpetuate division be God’s agents of unity grounded upon our Lord’s sacrificial love. On Christ the King Sunday (November 24th) we honor a king who is unlike any earthly king, rather voluntarily let the world’s hatred be laid upon Him, giving His life as a sacrifice for our sin.

Sustained by the love of Christ,



Chihoni Update!

Our Choices in Mission Challenge for October was to help equip the surgical suite in the Outpatient Department at Chihoni Medical Center (CMC). Our gifts were generously matched dollar for dollar up to \$5000, and we look forward to the day when the CMC opens its doors to the people of Chihoni!

The Outpatient Department will be built around a courtyard with a waiting area surrounded by gardens. The surgical suite is located in the top left corner of the drawing. For a larger photo, check out the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall!



Outpatient Department Floor Plan



A fence has been installed

Much work has been completed already in preparation for the construction. First, a fence was erected around the perimeter, but the brush was so thick that the ground had to be cleared before the posts could be installed.

Heavy equipment was brought in to clear the building site. Now, everything is at the ready, and as soon as that final building permit is issued, construction will be underway! Mungu akipenda, God willing, this will happen soon!



Heavy brush covered the site

Let us continue to keep our Chihoni mission in our prayers.

October Choices in Mission

We rejoice in the generosity of our members! Your donations of \$8,228, combined with the Choices in Mission \$5000 match, enables us to send IHP-US a check in the amount of \$13,228 to help equip the surgical suite of the Outpatient Department at Chihoni Medical Center.

Thank you for supporting this important project with your prayers and gifts!

Directory Change for Bob Sandquist. He has returned to his home in Newton. Please make a note in your directory that his address is...

**Bob Sandquist
305 E 19th St N.
Newton IA 50208**





It seems a little early to be thinking about Christmas, but First Lutheran is going to decorate a tree for the 2024 Tree-Mendous Christmas Experience! at the Jasper County Museum.

So we are looking for people to help. This event is widely attended and is a great opportunity to share our gifts with the community. If you have an idea for a theme, please let Deborah Rose
(deborah.rose65@gmail.com)

On Sunday, Nov. 3 during/after fellowship time we will ask people to bring and/or create decorations to fit the theme (tbd). Then one day that week (Nov. 4 – Nov. 8) we will need volunteers to go to the museum between 9 am and 12 pm to actually decorate the tree. More information and announcements will follow, but we wanted to get this out there so you can start thinking about how you may be able to contribute.

Thanks, Deb Rose.



We have committed singers for Christmas Eve so join us if you please! We will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 8:30-9:15 starting

November 17-December 22.

Easy to learn music has been selected to enhance that beautiful service.

1st Lutheran made and donated a scarecrow to the Newton Arboretum!
It looked amazing. Thanks to the woman that spent time to make it happen.



Bible Quiz

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas

Answer on pg. 2



N.H.N. Hygiene Collection

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is collecting hygiene products for the hygiene closets at the middle and high schools. These are used by our Newton kids whose families are living on the edge and provides them with shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other hygiene products. We are also collecting new socks and underwear for all ages. These will go to the school nurses and the Salvation Army for distribution to individuals who may only have one pair of socks and underwear.

Items will be collected during October and November and delivered to the schools the second week of December.

To assure a varied distribution on sizes collected member churches should focus on the following sizes

- **First Lutheran: children's underwear size 6 and sock size 3**
If you would prefer to donate cash the money will be used to purchase new clothes for the middle and high school clothing closets based on their needs.

Special Dates

- **All Saints' Day,**
November 1, 2024
- **Daylight saving time ends,**
November 3, 2024
- **Veterans Day,**
November 11, 2024
- **Christ the King Sunday,**
November 24, 2024
- **Thanksgiving Day,**
November 28, 2024

Thankful thoughts

"The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank." That quote from 19th-century painter Daniel Rossetti is often misattributed to Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton. In fact, Chesterton springboarded off Rossetti's statement to elaborate on thankfulness.



"The converse of this proposition is also true," said Chesterton, "and it is certain that this gratitude produced ... the most purely joyful moments that have been known to man. [Rossetti] boasted that he mixed all his colors with brains, and the great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks."



Tiffany Ketcham 11/01
 Shad Marvelli 11/02
 Andrew Ketcham 11/0
 Betty Peterson 11/08 |
 James Baker 11/11
 Carolyn Kirchhoff 11/13
 Maureen Wilkins 11/14
 Larry Birkenholz 11/16
 Marjorie Baker 11/19
 John Main 11/21
 Dennis Dobesh 11/22

Giving Made Easy

First Lutheran has generated a QR Code to make giving even easier.



On your iPhone or Android phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone or tablet. Follow the instructions on the screen to finish.

*All previous forms of giving are still available.
 This is just 1 more option.*

November's Monthly Mission is....

God's Global Barnyard

For the month of November First Lutheran Church has chosen God's Global Barnyard for our monthly mission. This means we will match up to \$2,500.00. It is simple to give. This is how it works.

1. Choose your gift.

Browse and choose the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones.

2. Get a card

If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell him or her about it.

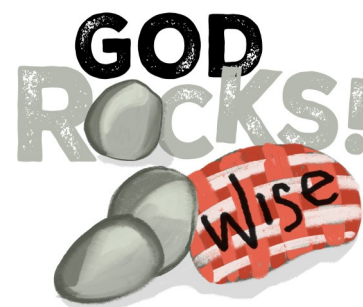
3. Where your money goes

Every project in every community starts with listening. We believe that our congregations, companion churches and partners know their communities best. That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact.

The items in this catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support they need and none of what they don't.

Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad.

More than 85 percent of your gifts directly support our programs. Less than 15 percent is used for administration and fundraising.



Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

What you need:

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.



God's
Global
Barnyard



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Christ the King Sunday November 24th, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALL SAINTS' DAY Daylight savings time! Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship/Ornament Prep. Evening of Gratitude in Pella					1	2
3 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship/Ornament Prep.	4	5	6 Property Meeting 6:30 Pm	7 Dorcas 9:00 am	8	9
10 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am	11	12	13 Lois Cr. 9:30 Am	14	15	16
17 Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am	18	19	20 Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:30pm	21 Council Meeting 7:00 Pm	22	23
24 Christ the King Sunday Confirmation Class 8:30am. Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship Potluck & Christmas Decorating	25	26	27	THANKS GIVING The Church office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holyday	28	29
30 Office Hours Monday—Friday 8:30 am. -12:30pm.	31					

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

Meetings with Pastor Hoover by Appointment:

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 EAST THIRD STREET
NORTH
NEWTON, IOWA 50208

**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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&
(on Facebook at)
First Lutheran Church-
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The *grass* withers,
the *flower* fades,
BUT THE

**word of our God
stands forever.**

Isaiah 40:8, NASB

Join Us
9:30 A.M.
This Sunday

