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*The next
Property
meeting will be
May 7th
6:30 Pm.*



>Gone Fishing<

Could Peter have said to the other disciples, "You know what I miss? I miss fishing."

Is that why Jesus found His disciples out fishing early one morning, in the time between Easter's great revelation of the power of God's love and the Day of Pentecost? When kingdom power was bestowed on Jesus disciples.

While I wonder if Jesus would have been disappointed that they went back to fishing, what they had done before He called them, what stands out to me is how gracious Jesus was with them. The humble way He approached them, revealing His love.

At first they did not recognize the man on the shore who called out, "Children, you have no fish do you?" "No" they answered. And when they received back the instruction to "cast your net on the right side of the boat, then you will find some" they complied.

I wonder also at their state of mind, why they did as told by this unrecognized person? Yet, their trust was abundantly rewarded!

So many fish caught in their net they could not haul it in.

In their joyous surprise the light came on for John: "It's the Lord" he exclaimed. Peter believed and could not restrain himself. He jumped into the water and swam to meet Jesus on the shore. The others followed, not waiting to get the fish into the boat, rather dragging the net alongside.

They hadn't been looking for Jesus, they had been looking for fish, and did not find any until they took a chance on the man who found them with no fish in their net.

In so many ways we are like these disciples. We are prone to go back to what is familiar and comfortable. Somehow forgetting the life transforming view of this world we have learned from Jesus. We are called to share the amazing grace of the one true God who made His one beloved offspring to become one of us humans, for our sake. That through cruel mistreatment and death humanity inflicted upon the holy One we might receive salvation and eternal life.

Maybe I am being too hard on these fishermen. Maybe since they could not multiply loaves of bread, they went fishing so they would have something with which to feed the hungry and marginalized. We do that sort of thing in various ways from socks and hygiene products to laundry detergent. And should, to God's glory and mercy.

Still, I wonder sometimes if we are settling for what is familiar and comfortable, not expecting Jesus to show up or call us to something new? Are we content with what we can do in our own strength rather than drawing peace, hope, and real strength from God's faithfulness to be with us even now? God with us in our weakness and distress as well as celebrating the kingdom successes we get to participate in. Successes measured by revelation of God's love and mercy.

God protects and provides for the mission and ministries entrusted to the church ~ So, when we fess up that we miss the good old days, let us reflect on what made them good, and seek Jesus' active presence with and among us. Humbly asking for the peace and love to see clearly the ways provided for us to demonstrate and celebrate that God's love and mercy are at work in, on, and through us for the world they love. Seek to be empowered by God's love to live in the tension of Jesus question to Peter: "Do you love me more than these." And instruction: "Feed My lambs; Tend My sheep; Feed My sheep" Seek the help of the Holy Spirit to together discern what these calls us to do and be in this time and place.

Pastor Auit

Mission Coalition:

Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods for the spring bake sale! Thanks to generous bakers and shoppers we raised \$1,283 for The Salvation Army Food Pantry. Also thank you to those who volunteered or participated in the Good Friday Cross Walk.

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer,
May 1, 2025
- Bobby Jo Valentine Concert
May 4th , 2025
- Mother's Day,
May 11, 2025
- Armed Forces Day,
May 17, 2025
- Victoria Day (Canada),
May 19, 2025
- Memorial Day,
May 26, 2025
- Ascension Day,
May 29, 2025

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in our 2025 Cross-walk



Chihoni News!!

Spirits are high at Chihoni as work on the Outpatient Department (OPD) and the Hostel continues! The walls are going up, and rocks have been added to strengthen the foundations. As project manager Selemani Shabani says in Paula's April Update, "We are having a wonderful time... We have been very, very busy!"



Workers carrying buckets of concrete for the foundation

The goal is to see patients by early September, and the project is on track. Phase One is finished, and by the time you read this, Phase Two will be underway. For details, check out ihptz.org and click on IHP Monthly Update. Sele's page and the picture gallery give a great look at what is happening at our Tanzania project, including a drone photo of the OPD foundation.



Walls are going up and foundations reinforced

In the words of Dr. Charles Powell: "What I am seeing is truly marvelous. Thank you to all who donate, pray, follow, and give of your time to IHP and its activities. Asanteni sana (many thanks to all)!"

Confirmation Day!

It was a beautiful day to celebrate this affirmation of baptism with some great kids at First Lutheran Church-Newton! Thank you to everyone who helped them feel celebrated and supported by their church family! Congratulations Talia, Ashlyn, Emily, Colt, Landon and Alex!



May Prayer

"Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5, NIV). Lord God, Whatever emotion each of us is feeling right now, may our time with you in prayer grant nourishment for our souls.

During this month of May (and everyday) as we celebrate mother's. Thank you, God, for the special women in our lives [mom, grandmas, aunts, nieces, friends, wife, daughters]. We pray for their health and well-being as they nurture and love each of us as you have taught them.

Jesus, you are the stable rock on which we stand, the warm water in which I float peacefully, the fragrant air that energizes our being. In you we rest and are strengthened by your loving words.

Gracious Lord you said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27, NRSV). We place our faith and love into you and your words.

Thank you Jesus our Good Shepherd who loves and cares for us without fail as you sustain us each day
Amen.

BOBBY JO VALENTINE

HEART-OPENING, AWARD-WINNING FOLK/POP
SPONSORED BY FIRST LUTHERAN, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL

MAY 4 2PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 N 3RD AVE E



"Bobby Jo has both the spirit and songs that bring us back to believing. Whatever our faith, he has the humor, compassion, words, and music to help us believe again."
-Dar Williams



"Catchy songs with good tunes and intelligent, thoughtful lyrics in the tradition of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Bruce Hornsby."
-Stephen Schwartz, Tony award-winning creator of *Godspell*, *Wicked*, and *Pippin*



Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna

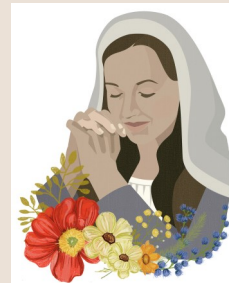


Answer on pg. 2

A prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.



Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

"He ascended into heaven..."

During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple.



"If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from Readings in St. John's Gospel).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV)

— that is what the Ascension affirms.



Gary Johnson 05/05
Heidi Sumpter 05/05
Isaac Friedman 05/08
Darrell Boettcher 05/11
Lane Rose 05/12
Janice Olson 05/14
Alice Klopping 05/20
Marv Zimmermann 05/23
Ben Breuer 05/26
Claire Breuer 05/26
Andrew Weiland 05/31

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE DIRTY DERBY DAYS

RUN FOR THE FLOWERS

This FRIDAY & SATURDAY!!!

MAY 2

MAY 3

Enter
to Win

RAFFLE

Newton Arboretum
& Botanical Gardens



**Funded in part from the City of Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program.

On behalf of the NHS soccer team we want to thank you for letting us use your church kitchen to serve the team meal.

It was a great success!

Erica Paterson & Maria DeRush



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!



Christian symbol

ALPHA MU OMEGA — The Greek letters that begin the words yesterday, today and forever remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!





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BOBBY JO VALENTINE
HEART-OPENING, AWARD-WINNING FOLK-POP
FROM NEWTON, IOWA

MAY 4 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2PM 309 N 3RD AVE E

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Dorcas 1 9:00 am National Day of Prayer	2	3
4 Worship Service 9:30 am Concert 2:00 Pm w/Bobby Jo Valentine	5 	6	7 Property Meeting 6:30PM	8	9	10
11 Worship Service 9:30 am	12	13	14	15 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	16	17
18 Worship Service 9:30 am	19	20	21 Lois Cr. 9:30 Am	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 9:30 am	26 Church office is closed.	27	28	29 Last Day of the 2024-25 School Year!	30	31

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

Pastor Hoover's Hours:
Monday & Tuesday
9:00Am- - 12:00 pm

Meetings with Pastor Hoover by Appointment

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 EAST THIRD STREET
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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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&
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First Lutheran Church-
Newton

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Sunday Morning
Worship
9:30am.
Coffee Hour
10:30am

GOD USES
every
SMALL ACT
of love
FOR LARGER
PURPOSES.