

# First LUTHERAN



2025  
Newsletter

Pastor Kurt Hoover

[pastorkurt@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorkurt@yahoo.com)  
(641) 792-3934

President

Judy Monroe

[professorjudy1@gmail.com](mailto:professorjudy1@gmail.com)

641-275-0142

Treasurer

Corinne Coyle  
[luthtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:luthtreasurer@gmail.com)  
515-669-2983

Administrative  
Assistant

Nicole Vitales

[office@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@newtonfirstlutheran.org)

641-792-3934

*The next  
Property  
meeting will be  
July 9th  
6:30 Pm.*



 Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Please consider with me how

**Summertime in our culture is like practicing Sabbath,**  
how compatible they are!

Summertime is a time for vacations, family visits, reunions, recreation befitting warm weather – often including bodies of water, or the cool of forests and mountains.

Sabbath time is for laying aside the everyday tasks and duties of life's demands and distractions — attending to the necessary, seeking to know and appreciate the Creator, Jesus our friend, who blesses and provides for our living abundantly. With the Holy Spirit illuminating how God's love and mercy is working in, on, and among the whole human family.

Where are you planning to go this year? Where and when have you been blessed and inspired to praise God on trips in years past? This we can do from memory and pictures taken. If you are going somewhere new this year, I imagine you have researched it online and planned to visit significant sites.

Up to the first century, the destruction of the Temple Jerusalem was a regular destination families planned to annually visit, if not more frequently. The festival of Booths remembered Israel's wandering in the wilderness after departing Egypt, it is a time of Joy and thanksgiving celebrated at harvest time with gratitude for God's provision.

Luke informs us: 41 Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.

The Passover continues to be Israel's most significant festival. Commanded by God to be a perpetual festival, it is the celebration of God's deliverance of the Jews from Egypt. Jesus appropriated it to become the Lord's Supper in which we celebrate that only through the body and blood righteous Lamb of God are we delivered from the condemnation of sins. Through the subsequent resurrection of our Lord we celebrate at Easter the way is prepared for us to enter eternal life.

Both the festival of Booths and the Passover are now celebrated at individual homes to which family and friends gather. We do not need to travel any farther than our home congregation to worship and praise God for all that is done for us out of the abundance of love and regularly celebrate our release from sin's grasp with the Lord's Supper.

Summer travel and family gatherings give you opportunities to sample worship with other congregations and those of relatives you are visiting while also finding God in the amazing beauty of God's creation.

*Continued on pg. 2*

May you and yours be blessed and protected in your travels this summer and in your homes. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)  
All of this relates to the offertory we will sing this summer: "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart". Always, everywhere, especially when taking rest and solitude in natural surroundings. And in the company of family and friends (new and old) the truth and grace of God's eternal reign provides us peace, confidence, hope and joy.

*Pastor Kurt*

## **Dorcas Circle Quilt Project**

### **What is Dorcas?**

Dorcas meets monthly to make quilts, using donated material. This year we hope to donate around 25 quilts in October to Lutheran World Relief, which distributes the quilts to people in need during times of natural disasters or crisis situations.

### **Who are the current woman of Dorcas?**

First Lutheran has a wonderful history of dedicated women in Dorcas Circle, and our current members include Candy Thompson, Pat Foote, Connie Lucas, and Sharron Anderson.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers as well as donations of large pieces of fabric and bedsheets.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming part of the Dorcas Circle, please feel free to contact Candy Thompson or simply join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM.



### **Our July Choices in Mission**

The Church Council has chosen to support a synod mission project for our July Choices in Mission. The synod is asking congregations to support, in whatever way they can, funding for new ELCA congregations. Your dollars will be matched as we support this outreach endeavor.  
Church Council

### **A Big Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our outdoor worship choir on June 29th.

Your voices made the service truly special!

A special thank you to Jane Johnson, our choir director, for her incredible work in organizing and leading the choir. She did a wonderful job! You are all much appreciated.

## **Chihoni Update!**

As the walls are going up on the Outpatient Department at Chihoni, the building is taking shape! It is exciting to see the progress month by month. David West, who is onsite with Selemani and his crew, describes the process: Each of the blocks weighs 50 pounds. First they have to be loaded onto the truck, and then at the building site again be carried to the building where masons carefully place them, making sure the channels in the hollow blocks line up so electrical conduit, plumbing, and oxygen systems can be piped through the walls.



**The Outpatient Department walls are going up!**



**Selemani showing the masons how to line up the slots in the hollow blocks to accommodate the electrical conduit, plumbing, and oxygen lines.**

The work to pour the concrete

slabs is no less taxing. The workers carry the concrete components—sand, aggregate, water, and cement—to the mixer on their heads in 5-gallon buckets. This is also how the wet concrete is transported up the stairs or ramp and spread out to make the floor. Talk about hard work! I don't even want to think about how heavy those buckets must be.

In the most recent IHP Update, Paula points out that the double matching grant challenge to furnish the Outpatient Department has been extended for another two weeks, through August 15. This means our gifts continue to be tripled up to \$10,000. Please pray that everything will be in place for the September 5 Grand Opening! For Paula's entire June Update, go to <https://www.ihptz.org> and click on IHP Monthly Update.

### ***Carolyn Kirchhoff's***

#### ***New Address***

*Carolyn is all moved in at Eden Crest Assisted Living in Altoona. If you would like to send cards, visit, or send prayers they are muchly appreciated. Her new information is listed below.*

***Eden Crest***

***1600 8th St. S. E. #709***

***Altoona, Iowa 50009***

### **Food Pantry Donations**

The Food Pantry would like us to emphasize a specific item each month.

Remember, you may bring any item you wish, but spreading this among the contributing congregations keeps a steady supply of their most basic needs coming each month.

**For the month of July**

**Personal and feminine hygiene products are requested.**

There is a basket located in the Narthex for you to place your donations in.



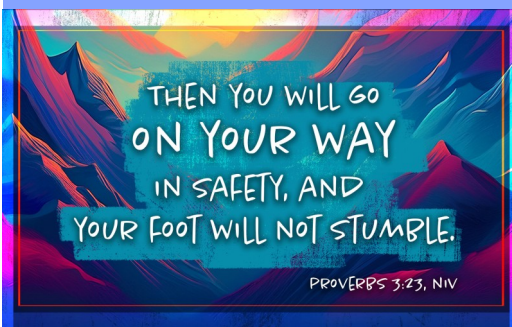
### A July Prayer

Let us pray:  
Father God, you gave free will to all people. As we celebrate independence, help us use our freedom to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We all bring our own joys and concerns to the table and lay them at your feet.. We cry out “Jesus, wrap your loving arms around us, providing the unique care we each need.”

In the bible you taught us with a basket of summer fruit, God showed Amos a sign (8:1-2). We look for summer messages that you have for us in ripening gardens, starry skies, long bright days, and warmer weather.

As summer breezes call to mind the Holy Spirit blowing in our lives and the world — sometimes soft, sometimes forceful. Help us to feel your touch, O God, and move each of us to respond.  
Amen!



### Bible Quiz

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?



- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven

Answer on pg. 2



## TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

*Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.*

This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. \_\_\_\_\_

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. \_\_\_\_\_

Having deep understanding and sound judgment. \_\_\_\_\_

A person in charge of military troops. \_\_\_\_\_

A person in authority. \_\_\_\_\_

The season when daylight hours are longest. \_\_\_\_\_

A substance you eat for nutrition. \_\_\_\_\_

When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. \_\_\_\_\_



Go to the \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_;

consider its ways and be \_\_\_\_\_!

It has no \_\_\_\_\_, no overseer or \_\_\_\_\_,

yet it stores its provisions in \_\_\_\_\_

and gathers its \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.



*Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV*

Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

### Holy ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone



Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.

#### What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



#### What you do:

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.



Steve Hodnett 07/04  
 Carson Sumpter 07/04  
 Leo Friedman 07/06  
 Steven Benskin 07/07  
 Talia Friedman 07/08  
 Lonnie Portner 07/08  
 Barb Anderson 07/13  
 Elizabeth Ketcham 07/13  
 Allison Bartholmey 07/18  
 Barbra Hoover 07/26  
 Jeremy Sumpter 07/31



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors Summer Project

Summer 2025 Neighbors Helping Neighbors is again focusing on the vulnerable children in our community. We are collecting school supplies to give to the teachers, who find themselves providing those school supplies which many parents cannot afford to purchase. Teachers, and nurses, at all schools were contacted for suggestions of what they need most. We will divide donations among the schools and deliver the week of August 18, before students return.

Lists are here, or printed in the monthly newsletter, and occasional Friday news.

We can also accept cash donations and will do the shopping for you!

### **For the teachers \*=most needed**

pencils\*  
Kleenex\*  
poster board  
index cards  
post-its  
expo markers\*- black please, these run out by spring break, the more the better  
binders\*  
glue sticks\*

scissors  
composition notebooks- these are the ones with the sewn in binding (requested by 6th grade science)  
mints (for coughs, cough drops cannot be dispensed)  
ear buds  
pencil eraser tops  
loose leaf paper  
expo erasers  
crayons  
2 pocket folders- in solid colors  
disinfecting wipes\*  
Sheet protectors  
Highlighters  
Binders  
Sticky-notes

### **For the nurses**

granola bars\*\*\*  
peppermints  
life savers (sore throats)  
bandages  
ace bandages  
bandaids- all sizes  
kitchen sponges and ziploc bags (these make reusable ice packs)  
refillable water bottles

Remember to check your drawers and other places for these items that you may have put away because you don't use them, the schools can!

## **Christian symbol**

**PELICAN** — In the Middle Ages, the pelican came to represent Jesus' sacrifice of his blood for the world. According to legend, a mother pelican, in times of famine, would pluck open her chest and feed her young with her own blood. An alternate myth was that she fed her dying young with her blood to revive them, losing her own life in the process. The depiction of a pelican with a drop of blood on her chest is called "the pelican in her piety."





## July Choices in Mission—Synod Mission Project

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>VBS 1</b> 1-3:30 Pm.	<b>VBS 2</b> 1-3:30 Pm. Property Meeting 6:30PM	<b>Dorcas 3</b> 9:00 am <b>VBS</b> 1-3:30 Pm.	<b>HAPPY FOURTH of July</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship Service 9:00 am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Worship Service 9:00 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Council Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship Service 9:00 am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship Service 9:00 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

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.



Pastor Kurt Hoover  
309 East Third Street North  
Newton, Iowa 50208  
office@newtonfirstlutheran.org  
(641)792-3934



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

**Watch Past and Live  
services !**

[newtonfirstlutheran.org](http://newtonfirstlutheran.org)  
&  
(on Facebook at)  
First Lutheran Church-  
Newton

Phone: 641-792-3934  
E-mail:  
[firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org](mailto:firstoffice@newtonfirstlutheran.org)



**New Summer  
Sunday Morning  
Worship  
9:00am.  
Coffee Hour  
10:00am**

GOD USES  
*every*  
SMALL ACT  
*of love*  
FOR LARGER  
PURPOSES.