

Pastor Kurt Hoover
pastorkurt@yahoo.com
(641) 792-3934

President
Jim Lammey
jimlammey78@gmail.com
641-521-7337

Treasurer
Corinne Coyle
luthtreasurer@gmail.com
515-669-2983

Administrative
Assistant
Nicole Vitales
office@newtonfirstlutheran.org
641-792-3934

Our next
Property Council
meeting is
June 3rd, 2026
at 6:30 Pm.



During the Sunday's of Easter we repeatedly heard Jesus say, "Believe in me" This passage in particular stands out:

John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Jesus imploring us in this way begs the question, "what is it Jesus wants us to choose Him over? What is the basis on which we put our trust in anything?" When we have our needs reliably provided and protected, do we see everything else as superficial? And put our efforts toward securing comfort and pleasure?

I believe Jesus is not asking us to reject the world, rather embrace the Biblical narrative of His Father as Creator and source of all. To believe that He has come to live as one of us as a further revelation of God's self who made us to be in relationship with.

More than just see Jesus an exceptionally good man with power from God He uses for good, know Him as the embodied revelation of the Creator's love, calling us to believe in Them and join Them in the works They continue to do, to reveal God's presence.

It is a broader worldview of active faith, looking for God's presence and will in the goodness that amazes you, for which there is no worldly explanation. We can find spiritual rest and Peace believing that God is providing for the good of all. Yet we also experience the contrary as true, "when evil occurs for which there is no good or Godly explanation this is evidence of Godless man worshiping self-interest and the devil's diverting human faith and trust. [Yet Jesus was not a warrior, we are called to love.]

Jesus addressed this paradox with the "Good Shepherd discourse:

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ['They', those who will come to believe and follow Jesus Words and example.]*

¹¹ *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

¹² *The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me,*

¹⁵ *just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.*

I have chosen to write about this theme because we live this present life in a blurry context of many powers demanding our faith and trust. We don't choose to believe in them, yet they exert their strong temporal influence over us. For example, political parties more so than individual candidates.

Might we ask, prayerfully discern, 'how is God working in their lives, grace and compassion beyond pragmatism, have authority in their hearts?' We look for evidence in the 'works' they do and words they use to build up.

Believing in Jesus is exceedingly more comprehensive. When we ask God, and are open to God size answers, we open our hearts and minds to believing God is the source and ending of all that is, was, and will be. So much greater than a Hercules, Atlas, or even Mother Teresa. The latter not mythical, rather empowered by the Lord her God to embody love and compassion, value and dignity of each human being. That is the evidence Jesus is talking about. God's love and care for humanity and all of creation embodied in those who believe and live the reality of God's kingdom while our lives are contained in this fleshy world.

While tempted to measure success by Mother Teresa's fame, fame and greatest impact are not the target. Rather be more like Mary and less like Martha. More willing to sit and be built up by God's Word to inform and guide our temporal tasks.

Human society today is not going to affirm Jesus as Lord and King, rather see His death as failure. Only by Believing in Jesus, who He is with the Father, do we receive the gift of mercy given through Jesus death by Crucifixion. He died and was buried from the evening of the first day to the dawn of the third. Then raised from death by the power of the Creator's love; who sent angels to roll the stone from the entrance/exit of the tomb.

Too much to believe? Can't imagine convincing others Jesus' death and resurrection could accomplish for them the forgiveness of sin? Our universal need for mercy is the thief. Believe because Jesus provides for them also the Peace, Hope, and Love you know you need. God who loves sinners, so much as to be the remedy, gives you these through the Holy Spirit's activity, manifesting God's restoring grace.

It is no small matter that Jesus implores us to Believe, meets us in our unbelief and worldly distractions. That Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit are not content to leave you and your loved ones there.

We are blessed to receive the help Jesus referred to when Peter declared his faith:

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

Pray that we, an outpost of the Good News in a world that needs something reliable to believe in, may receive power to continue to nurture faith and proclaim Good News:

^{John 6:35} Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, ³⁸ for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

We have Good News of Amazing Grace to share!

Pastor Kurt Hoover

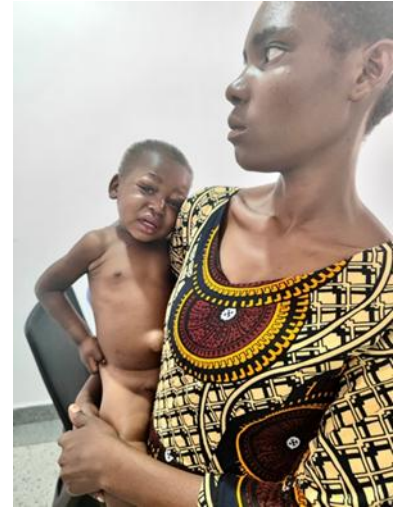
Chihoni Calling!

More good news from Chihoni! Thanks be to God!

In the most recent Update, Dr. Bonaventura “Bon” Mazezele expresses his gratitude to God for His help in reaching the immediate goals of Chihoni Medical Center (CMC): The facility is becoming known in the area and attracting more patients every day, and the final bureaucratic hurdle, the full approval of the Ministry of Health, has been cleared.

Dr. Bon recently treated a mother and child who came in because the baby, 14 months old, was malnourished. The baby cried excessively and had weight loss, a fever and a cough, and his MUAC, or “middle upper arm circumference,” an international measurement for malnutrition, was abnormal. The baby had stopped receiving breast milk at ten months, because his mother was ill. Dr. Bon provided antibiotics and multivitamins for both, and the mother left armed with new knowledge of nutritious foods from local markets for herself and the baby.

CMC’s first medical student has returned to Mayo Clinic for her graduation. She is now Dr. Emily Gardner. She writes that while she had read up on global health and knew that her rotation at Chihoni would be different from anything she had experienced so far, “what I could not have anticipated was how quickly I would come to love Chihoni and the people here.” She notes that one of the most meaningful projects was developing and delivering first aid training for the staff with Dr. Bon, and seeing how eager the staff were to learn skills that might someday help them save a life.



This malnourished baby and his mother received the help they needed from Dr. Bon.

Meanwhile, work continues on the hostel, the Reproductive and Child Health Center (RCH), and the Outpatient Department (OPD) courtyard.

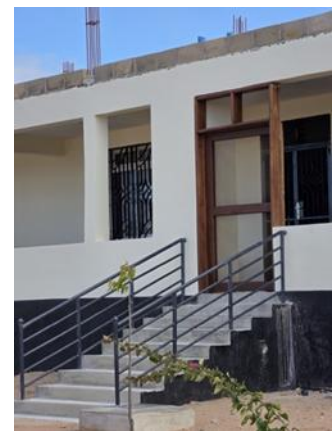


A team from Salt Lake will be planting the terraced gardens of the OPD courtyard. The gazebo is going up at the lower level.

Paula is busy preparing for June’s volunteers. Her first project is transforming Maasai “shukas,” blankets, into curtains for the rooms.

Drs. Charles and Lynne Powell will be coming in June for a one-month stay.

Read the entire Update at www.ihptz.org and click on IHP Monthly Update.



The lower level of the hostel is ready for the next team of volunteers

Reminder:

Starting June 7th we will be switching to our Summer worship schedule. Sunday morning worship will begin at 9:00 Am.



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" ₃ ₁m ₂r ₃m ₃nd ₂d ₄f

y ₄ ₅r s ₃nc ₂r ₂ f ₁ ₃th, wh ₃ch

f ₃rst l ₃v ₂d ₃n y ₄ ₅r gr ₁ndm ₄th ₂r

L ₄ ₃s ₁nd ₃n y ₄ ₅r m ₄th ₂r

 ₂ ₅n ₃c ₂ ₁nd, ₃ ₁m p ₂rs ₅ ₁d ₂d,

n ₄w l ₃v ₂s ₃n y ₄ ₅ ₁ls ₄."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Happy Birthday

Hailey Sumpter 06/02

Bruce Coyle 06/04

Dotty Mittelstadt 06/05

Easton Kremer 06/10

Henry Obersteller 06/10

Corinne Coyle 06/11

Neal Hayden 06/14

Donald Monroe 06/17

Eric Karsten 06/19

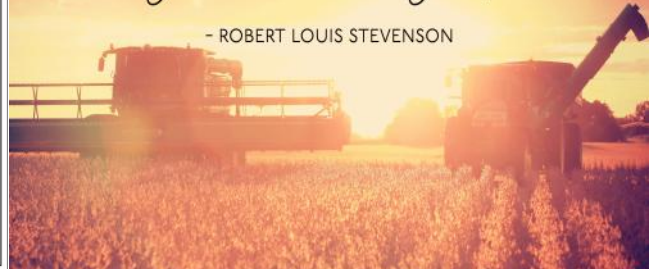
Judy Swenson 06/21

Sue Bauer 06/22

Anna Coyle 06/26

DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY
BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP
but by the seeds that you plant.

- ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



Bible Quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshiping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

Answer on pg. 2



Reflecting the Father's Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life? For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:



God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.

The Quiet Power of Faithfulness

The greatest forces in the universe are rarely spectacular. Gentle summer showers often do more lasting good than hurricanes, though they draw little attention. The world depends on the faithfulness, loyalty and dedication of countless people whose names are never known. Every life, no matter how humble, has a role in shaping a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow. It is easy to overvalue what seems impressive and underestimate what appears ordinary. Yet lasting change is most often built through quiet commitment, patient service and faithful hearts doing what matters most, day after day.

Fruit of our annual Meeting:

Monthly Sunday Evening worship and meal.

The details are still in the works so please watch for more notices to come. We will be holding a Sunday evening service each month during summer.

We are in the process of building the team to help this come to life.

What we are planning is a short casual worship with music and spoken responses. Amid busy schedules gather to reflect on God's word to us much like our Lenten Mid-week services, Food and Fellowship. Please pray for our Lord's guidance and provision for this additional option.

Pastor Kurt



Prayer for June

Heavenly Father, Thank you, for this glorious day! Lord, rest your Spirit upon us, we pray, so we may go share your goodness and love with others. We pray for all fathers and father-figures.

We pray and give thanks to you God, for giving them an example of all the ways you guide, direct, teach and protect us in love, we praise you for being the ultimate role model. For you are the Good Father. We pray we can turn our focus from self to God and from fear to faith. As we sense Your gentle touch. Jesus, we lay the ups and downs of this life at your feet. Help to remind us daily to let you carry them as You have told us to do so.

In Jesus Holy name we pray,

Amen.

Do you need any perennials in your garden?

Pat Foote and Candy Thompson have maintained the two flower gardens along both sides of the south entrance of the church parking lot for many years. These gardens have been beautiful and have earned lots of compliments, but they have been a lot of work. It's time that we made this area less labor intensive.

From Gratitude to Faithful Praise

Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.



Elevator Update

Current Situation

The second elevator company has not yet been able to repair our elevator. Both the Church Council and the Property Team are actively working to find a solution.

Next Steps

We will continue to provide updates as progress is made toward resolving the issue. Please watch for additional information in the coming days.

How You Can Help

Your prayers and support during this time are sincerely appreciated.



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Dorcas 9:30 Am.	5	6
7 Worship Service 9:00 am (Note Time Change)	8	9	10 Property Meeting 6:30 Pm.	11	12	13
14 Worship Service 9:00 am Sunday Evening Worship w/meal 6:00 Pm.	15	16	17	18 Council Meeting 4:00 Pm.	19	20
21 Worship Service 9:00 am	22	23	24	25	26 Juneteenth	27
28 Worship Service 9:00 am	29	30				

Flag Day

Summer Begins
Father's Day

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

**Watch Past and Live
services !**

newtonfirstlutheran.org
&
(on Facebook at)
First Lutheran Church-
Newton

**Online worship
service are
always available!**

Join Us

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 Am

Coffee Hour 10:00 Am

Sunday Evening Worship

June 14th 6:00 Pm.