



Partners
in Ministry

Serving God and others through
the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of
America

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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Words from Pastor Kari's Pen.

*Office Hours for
Holy Trinity :
Tuesday-Thursday
1:00 - 4:00 PM.
By appointment
only.*

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Matthew 10:40-42 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me..."

Confession time.

Whenever I hear this scripture I remember the first few months I lived in Iowa.

When my husband and I move to Iowa, a woman we knew connected us with her niece who lives here. We had quite the welcome on our first day in Grinnell. Just overwhelming hospitality and kindness. That's what one does when a beloved aunt tells you to take care of someone that they love "like family".

My husband and I both grew up in conservative rural areas. We still try to out-country each other. So, we figured we would have no problem blending into small town life. Like speak to like, or so it goes.

However, we would go to the beginning of the year mixers for the college, and everyone was so nice until they learned I was a pastor. People instantly got nervous and conversation halted. To this day some of the senior faculty are blown away that I truly love being a pastor here.

I do! I love it! And I love being invited to those beginning of the year mixers as well.

My husband got the same response I got when we would socialize outside of the campus environment. People would be so approachable until they learned he worked at the college and would become instantly guarded. Their body language would shift, and they avoided eye contact.

The best part of this story, my husband pointed out that I was probably the one whose personality fit in better with the college and his values matched better with the local community. But those are not things that one can appropriately gauge when meeting someone. As is the case with most communities, no matter how hard we try to avoid it, there is an us versus them dynamic. Growing up in South Dakota it was the Norwegians vs. Danes, or the 4-H Kids who showed livestock versus the 4-H kids who did special foods and public speaking. In the case of my story here its known as the "towns and gowns" divide.

Some people assume that a college professor at a liberal arts college wouldn't hold tightly to his Christian values or have them at all.

Some people assume a pastor is not someone they can trust with their inner struggle, and unfortunately female ministers (who are not married to male lead pastors) are regarded more warily than others.

All this to say, we cannot control the way people welcome us. But we most certainly can control the ways we welcome others. Jesus tells us to take the love that we have for family and your close community and to apply it to everyone and anyone you meet. Welcome the stranger. Welcome the one you have nothing in common with. Welcome the one you do not understand. Not to change them, but because they too are God's beloved children.

How can this be good news, you ask? I follow the rules, why shouldn't they? What if I welcome those different from me and they change us?

Well, the gospel of Christ transforms you each and every time you hear it. There is no such thing as being stagnant in Christ. We can hold firm to the truth that Christ came and died for us. Redeems us so that we may be liberated from the rat race of chasing salvation and could in turn care for our neighbors. There is no such thing as gaining maturity and then not changing ever again. You will change, because Christ will change you.

We welcome others in the name of Christ because Christ died when we were still sinners to save us. It is not for us to judge, exclude, or marginalize others. It is up to us to so boldly trust in the message of God's love so that we welcome all and create a sanctuary of Christ's love wherever we offer welcome.

I can't thank this community enough for welcoming me in the gracious ways that you have. More so, I can't tell you how beautiful it is to see the love you have for each other. It's such a great love that you have for your family and fellow community members. And I always feel it the fullest during these 4th of July celebrations you always do such a marvelous job conducting. Just think if we turned that outward what a glorious welcome it would make for the kingdom of heaven.

Blessings to you as you use your God given blessings to welcome others, to offer cool cups of water (especially this independence week... please hydrate!) to all those who pass by. Welcome others as Christ has welcomed you. Not because of who they are, but because they are children of God. Just as you are.

Peace,
Pastor Kari



2023 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - Service Helper List

updated 1/21/23

Date	Greeter	Lector	Comm. Asst.	Altar Guild	Candle Lighting
7/2/2023	Brad & Teri Bowlin	Teri Bowlin	Mike Paulson	Norene Paulson	Charly Fenner
7/9/2023	Mark Bell	Pat Johnson			
7/16/2023	Todd & Melanie Sharp	Jessica Winegar			
7/23/2023	Marcia Goodrich	Carol Naeseth			
7/30/2023	Mark & Amy Collum	Doug Bell			
8/6/2023	Beth, Madie & Charly Fenner	Nancy Wright	Mark Bell	Marlene Sharp	Hannah Neleman
8/13/2023	Sophia & Jacob Bell	Teri Bowlin			
8/20/2023	Stacey Simbro	Pat Johnson			



- Vicky Bell**
(July 1st)
- Carol Naeseth**
(July 2nd)
- Addison Collum**
(July 3rd)
- Mark Collum**
(July 4th)
- Landon Downing**
(July 4th)
- Holly Pettlon**
(July 7th)
- Joann Nida**
(July 8th)
- Rhonda Wolf**
(July 11th)
- Wayne Sharp**
(July 13th)
- Richard Merten**
(July 17th)
- Sherri Peart**
(July 17th)
- Jack Bowlin**
(July 18th)
- Jane Firkins**
(July 19th)
- Brian Ver Heul**
(July 19th)
- Sue Ranard**
(July 21st)
- Teri Bowlin**
(July 22nd)
- Ben Caldwell**
(July 22)
- Dalton Winegars**
(July 28th)

St. Andrew's New Bible Study!

New Bible Study- we meet every other Tuesday at 9:00 AM at Barb Freeborn's home. We are studying the book of Revelations. Come and join us for coffee, fellowship and studying God's word. Hope you can join us.

Thanks, Marlene Sharp



SUNDAY MORNING ASSISTANTS

	LITURGIST	READER
07/02/23	Staci Arnold	Staci Arnold
07/09/23	Ange Sevenbergen	Ange Sevenbergen
07/16/23	Vicky Bennett	Vicky Bennett
07/23/23	Sarah Jorges	Sarah Jorges
07/30/23	Shawnae Nilles	Shawnae Nilles
	USHERS/GREETERS	ACOLYTES
07/02/23	Keith & Kathy Sevenbergen	Presley Arnold
07/09/23	Wes & Sue Ranard	Jana Sevenbergen
07/16/23	Bill & Linda Bennett	Runa Lee (Ian Bennett)
07/23/23	Charlie & Vicky Bennett	Layne Jorges
07/30/23	Dianne Clemon & Marilyn Butler	Runa Lee (Devon Wolf)

Any questions contact Linda Bennett
Phone 641-218-1547



Bible Quiz

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



MISSION REPORT

Our mission support to the synod in June was \$742. There was also a \$350 donation to ELCA World Hunger and \$200 donated to ELCA Disaster Response.

Our monthly mission emphasis was for the Newton Community School District Food Service, to help pay for school meals for families in need, and we will be sending them \$670 in combined budgeted and donated funds.

Next month's mission will be Lutheran Services in Iowa. LSI is one of Iowa's largest human services agencies with over 20 sites throughout Iowa. They provide services to people of all ages, from infant to the elderly, that span a wide range of issues -- from therapy and intensive crisis intervention with families; to community support for individuals with disabilities. To donate to this month's mission, please write "LSI" on the special offering line on your offering envelopes.

Prayer for July 4th



The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfil the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer, Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal to the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and extend their application to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression,
persecution,
and unjust discrimination;
save us from religious,
racial and class conflicts;
may our country be a haven of refuge
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,
of reconciling differences of opinion
and averting clashes of interest,
of helping one another
to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,
the symbol of our American democracy,
may ever wave o'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave.

Amen.



Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

July 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry. Through your support, a first-time mom is able to receive the education and resources she needs to build futures full of hope, a person with a disability is reaching their goals and becoming more independent each day, and an immigrant is learning English through our Community Based English Language Learning (CBELL) program led by compassionate teachers.

This month, we would like to give a special thank you to those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project. On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it's raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your generous support in this important work! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a "God's work. Our hands." project with LSI, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



Prayer brings heaven to earth



When you received Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes — earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God's home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.


But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord.

—Ben Jennings



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Worship Times are as follows.

9:00 am

St. Andrew's Worship

10:00 am

Fellowship & Sunday School

@ St. Andrew's 10:30 am

Holy Trinity Worship

10:30 am

Fellowship @ Holy Trinity

11:30 am.

*How can we be
praying
for you?*