

# THE MESSENGER

*The monthly newsletter of First Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Dear Members of the Body of Christ at First Lutheran,

I don't know about you, but I am having a hard time being thankful these days. There is SO MUCH distracting us from concentrating on the good in the world and the things for which we can be thankful.

So I am inviting you to join me in an exercise called "30 Days Thankful." We will be making a guide available in both print and digital formats. The creators from Vibrant Communications describe it this way, "In this season of thanksgiving, cultivate the spiritual practice of gratitude. Reflect on each day of November – from your getting up in the morning to your lying down in the evening with a lens of gratitude. Use this booklet to guide you through and to thankfulness." I am hopeful that it will renew my sense of gratitude that will help me remain able to be thankful long after November has ended. If ever we needed a new set of lenses, I think this would be the time.

Please watch for communications through Facebook and Constant Contact to engage in this digitally. Check the church welcome tables to pick up a printed version or call the church office.

Let us pray. *Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. Help us to have new eyes to see these blessings and give us glad and generous hearts. Amen.*

In gratitude,  
Pastor Michelle



## A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



## A reminder...

### *17 Ways to Relieve Worry, Stress and Anxiety*

1. Exercise – go for a walk
2. Laugh – watch a comedy, read a book or the comics
3. Connect with nature
4. Aromatherapy
5. Journaling
6. Listening to soothing music
7. Singing
8. Connect with a friend
9. Just say “no”
10. Pet your dog/cat
11. Meditation
12. Breathing techniques
13. Tai Chi, Yoga or another form of slow movement exercise
14. Reduce caffeine intake
15. Help others
16. Listen to a waterfall or other soothing noise
17. Read your Bible

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 <p>Lutheran World Relief <a href="http://www.lwr.org">http://www.lwr.org</a> 800-597-5972</p>	 <p>LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY <a href="http://www.nelcm.com/">http://www.nelcm.com/</a> (308) 234-1828</p>
 <p>NLOM Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries <a href="http://www.nlom.org">http://www.nlom.org</a> 402-944-2544</p>	

# WORSHIP NEWS

## November Worship Schedule

For the month of November, our Congregation Council has decided to continue our worship opportunities as shown in the following schedule. Please realize this is a fluid situation and subject to change.

Dates	Saturday @ 6:00	Sunday @ 8:45	Sunday @ 11:00
October 31/November 1	No Worship Service	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online/Radio	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online
November 7/8	No Worship Service	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online/Radio	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online
November 14/15	No Worship Service	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online/Radio	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online
November 21/22	No Worship Service	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online/Radio	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online
November 28/29	No Worship Service	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online/Radio	In-person Worship in the Sanctuary and Online

We ask that people sign-up with the church office or on the Sign-Up Genius ahead of time so that we can anticipate how many people will be participating in the in-person worship services. We also require masks to be worn and hand sanitizer be used. People will be signed in at the northwest or southwest doors and then escorted to a pew. At the end of the worship service, worshipers will be ushered out from the back of the sanctuary to the front of the sanctuary. We are seeking to offer as many worship opportunities as possible in these times when Covid-19 continues to significantly increase in Buffalo County.

## More Ushers Are Needed to Offer Worship in November

**In order to offer in-person Worship Services** at 8:45am and at 11:00am, we need at least four-six ushers per service. Ushering responsibilities including:

- Checking-in people at either the northwest or southwest doors
- Escorting people to a pew and then recording in which pew they are sitting
- Escorting people out of the sanctuary moving from the back pews to the front pews.

Ushers won't need to collect offerings as we will have offering boxes at the doors.

Volunteering to usher at this time of important need does not commit anyone to remain on the ushers' list when things return to our regular patterns of church. If you would be willing to help out one or two Sundays a month, please either call or e-mail Kandy Bacon at the church office. Her e-mail address is: [kbacon@firstlutheran Kearney.org](mailto:kbacon@firstlutheran Kearney.org) The church office phone number is 308-237-5544. Thank you for helping us to fill this need.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ:

Much has happened since I last communicated with you about worship and ministry in this continuing time of pandemic. We experience constant change in public health developments and in individual expectations, which is stressful in the best of circumstances. I give thanks to God for you and the grace, patience and concern you share with Jesus himself in his concern for the most vulnerable. That practice will continue to be important as we head into fall flu season and the potential for renewed spread of the virus.

Your diligence in practicing safe gathering has prevented COVID-19 outbreaks in our congregations, which has not been the case among all denominations in the state. It's hard to see the infections and death that *don't* happen, but your care is sparing suffering and saving lives. As we all clamor to return to indoor in-person worship and its familiar practices, the increase in infection rates in outstate and rural areas reminds us how important it is to be vigilant in our ongoing safe practices. Another tool has become available to help your leaders make decisions about when and how to do just that. This

website: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/healthynebraska#!/vizhome/NebraskaCountyCOVID-19Ratesper100K/CountyRates> will let you view infection rates in your own county (and neighboring ones, if your membership attends from a broader area). Note especially the black bar, which is the moving seven-day average of infections in your area. I am joining with public health advisors and leaders of other church bodies to encourage you to gather indoors in person *only when the rate of infection is lower than 20 per 100,000 people* in your area. This gives you a very clear, concise, locally-focused metric to determine how safe it is to gather.

When you do gather in person, it's important to remember that gathering outdoors is best (for the remaining weeks that's possible), and that when gathering indoors, it's critical to wear masks, maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between households, strive for the best possible air circulation, provide for frequent hand sanitizing, avoid loud shared speaking or singing and take additional precautions--particularly around Holy Communion--such as those advised in this resource: [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Returning\\_to\\_In-person\\_Worship.pdf?\\_ga=2.209058391.415611945.1601397427-1319797630.1601067664](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Returning_to_In-person_Worship.pdf?_ga=2.209058391.415611945.1601397427-1319797630.1601067664)

Perhaps the most important thing to do is to communicate, communicate, communicate. It's more necessary now than ever to be clear in sharing education, decisions, and practices with one another. Unpleasant realities are more endurable when we understand why they exist. Let's talk—and listen!

We have been wandering in the wilderness of this pandemic for over six months now, and we are all tired of it. Constant reminders of it are wearing, as are the daily headlines of disagreement and outright conflict in the culture around us. It's important to remember that God travels this journey with us and sees that we have all we need to endure until we make our way out of it. This pandemic will end. We will endure and thrive once again, through the presence of the one who says "I will never leave you or forsake you." Be encouraged.

Finally, a word of continuing, deep thanks for all the ways in which you strive to witness to the world by your care for and service to others, your unity in the presence of disagreement, your grace in the presence of contention, your generosity in a time of uncertainty, and your faithfulness in all things. I continue to be so impressed by all we do—all you do—together. The world takes notice. Thank you. With my continuing prayers for your safety and well-being, and my gratitude to God for you,

Brian D Maas  
Bishop

# KEARNEY COMMUNITY NEWS

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Kearney Housing Agency recently indicated that they were ready to resume Meals on Wheels which they've been delivering since the pandemic changed so much. First Lutheran will retain its delivery day for Friday meals from 10:30am -12:00 noon, and nearly half of those who have delivered previously will continue to do so as we move back to that service.

First Lutheran joined five other churches in Meals on Wheels in January 2014 when Good Samaritan Hospital switched from their own deliverers to asking churches to volunteer. Over those six years First has involved upwards of forty people off and on, running three routes most Fridays.

Brad Kernick and Jane Teply met with the initial group to get a schedule started, and we have operated ever since except for holiday weekends when KHA doesn't deliver. Until the pandemic set in, the group had not missed a single week. Enough First members and friends signed up that many were scheduled only once every two months.

A typical Friday goes like this: three pairs of First Lutheran teammates meet between 10:30am-11:00am at Kearney Housing Agency (2715 Ave I) and each picks up meals for one of the three separate routes. The routes are printed out and included with each pair's carts and give specific instructions for each client's meal/delivery. In this time of Covid, teammates will deliver just to the door except for instances where the client cannot come to the door. Protective masks and gloves are required for delivery to keep everyone safe. Delivery usually takes an hour after which the pair takes the coolers back to KHA and goes home. KHA has revised their guidelines to provide for Covid-19 safety, and all deliverers will need to abide by those new suggestions. We look forward to helping them provide food to those who need it.

First Lutheran Church Members who help make deliveries are: Julie Bohm, Sue Bragg, Don Clark, Margene Dahlstedt, Christine Egger, Valerie Erickson, Dana Ernst, Lanny and Cheryl Gerdes, Maggie Glandt, Judy Henning, Terry and Connie Keiss, Brad Kernick, Janice Lewis from Integrated Life Choices, Larry and Nancy Merz, Don and Judy Niemann, Ward and Paula Peterson, Dale Pohlmann, Annette Schwartz, Carrie Stithem, Jerry and Carol Stuhr, Ted and Kathy Sup, Joan Swanson, Darrell and Jane Teply, Ken and Alicia Tracy, Tom Turek, Sherryl Wilke, Sharon Wilson, Frank and Mary Wright, Al and Betty Young.

Any First Lutheran members who wish to be part of our delivery group can notify Jane Teply at (308) 293 2792 or email her at [janeteply@yahoo.com](mailto:janeteply@yahoo.com).

Prayerfully, we can continue this mission indefinitely.  
Jane Teply

Unfortunately, in our article last month on Habitat for Humanity, we neglected to mention our member, Judy Fisher, is a member of the Habitat board. We apologize for the oversight! Thank you, Judy, for your service.

### **Other Ways YOU Can Be the Church by Volunteering to Help Our Neighbors**

- **Hot Meals and the Jubilee Center**

Hot Meals USA delivers a hot noon meal prepared at the Kearney Jubilee Center at no charge during the COVID-19 crisis. The Jubilee Center offers a Food Pantry to assist those in need of food. The phone number for both Hot Meals and the Jubilee Center is 308-234-3880.

# TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

## From Mission Outreach...

### **God's Work, Our Hands Join Us November 15, 2020**

With Covid cases on the rise, we wanted to give families a couple of different opportunities to help spread kindness. We encourage you to help where you can.

#### **Opportunity#1: Adopt a Family**

We know that times are hard, and we want to help some families in need in our community. We will be asking for donations to make up baskets to be delivered to their homes on November 15th. Please keep a lookout for more information on what donations we will need donations can be brought to the church November 1st until November 15th.

#### **Opportunity # 2: Spreading Kindness**

In addition to Adopting a family, lets spread some love in our community by doing Random Acts of Kindness. We will have "Kindness Cards" located at the church for you to hand to the person you show your kindness to. Here are a couple of examples. If you take someone a basket of baked goods, you could leave the card in the basket. If you pay for someone's coffee, you could have the cashier hand them the card. No act of kindness is too small. Let's spread someone love during these difficult times. **We would love to see what you are doing. Feel free to post pictures on the Mission Outreach Facebook page and use #gwohflc.** Need some ideas? 30 Random Acts of Kindness: Leave a generous tip, buy someone's lunch, leave change at the laundromat, popcorn, candy & video rental to someone, give the mailman a treat, buy someone hot chocolate, offer to babysit for a struggling parent, buy flowers for a friend, offer to clean a friend's house, leave a funny note in a library book, tape a bag of microwave popcorn to a Redbox machine, leave dollar bills all around at the dollar store, give your children notes of encouragement in their lunchboxes, leave a basket of dinner on someone's doorstep, donate diapers to a women's shelter, donated canned goods to a food bank, leave tennis balls at the dog park, leave a box of baby wipes in a public restroom, tape change to a vending machine, tape quarters to small kid's toy machines, take donuts to the police station, take muffins to the firehouse, take a cup of coffee or hot chocolate to your child's teacher.

### **Advent**

Advent is here when we are reminded of Christ's coming and his return. Once again please consider buying a good gift of bees, chickens, pigs or choose something from the Good Gifts catalog. Ornaments will be available in the Narthex to choose from the Christmas trees. Banks are available for the youth. While we in the United States are having a difficult time coping with the pandemic, those in third world counties are especially challenged. They lack basic health needs, clean water, and food; let alone the supplies necessary to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and are unable to distance in many cases. Please share as much as your finances allow. Please submit good gifts donations to the church office by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

I Peter 4:8-9; Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

# TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

## From Witness and Members...

### New Members Classes in November

Are you interested in officially joining the mission of First Lutheran Church? If so, please join us for our New Members Classes:

Sunday, November 1st @ 9:55am in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, November 8th @ 9:55am in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, November 15th @ 9:55am in Fellowship Hall

We will receive new members on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at both services.

Please contact the church office ([office@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:office@firstlutherankearney.org)) or Jen Puls ([JPuls@region3.net](mailto:JPuls@region3.net)) to register for the classes. We hope to see you there!



## From Care and Growth...

If you are a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, we will be having First Communion Classes December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:45pm each night. Please let the church office know if you are planning to participate. This is the class that replaces the one we started in March before COVID. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Michelle.

# TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

## From Stewardship...

### Generosity First

So far we have received 64 Statement of Intent forms. Thanks to those who have turned them in, and it is not too late if you have not yet had a chance to fill yours out!

Many thanks to the leadership of our congregation who have already committed to \$10,000 of our \$42,000 goal!

We will be having Celebration Sunday on November 8<sup>th</sup> to rejoice in the generosity our members have shown in their stewardship intentions as we continue to grow the ministry here at First Lutheran.



Stewardship Appeal

**Generosity First**  
**Please Return Your Intent Forms**



# OFFICE UPDATES



## FLC STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

### Church Office

office@firstlutheranearney.org

### Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

rcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

### Pastor Michelle Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

mcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

### Pastor Elisabeth Himmelman

Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Young Adults

ehimmelman@firstlutheranearney.org

### Kandy Bacon

Administrative Assistant

kbacon@firstlutheranearney.org

### Marti Brockmeier

Bookkeeper

martibroockmeier@firstlutheranearney.org

### Natalie Radcliffe

Worship Music Coordinator

natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org

### Adam Eilers

Maintenance Coordinator

aeilers@firstlutheranearney.org

### Judy O'Donnell

Preschool Director

judyodonnell@firstlutheranearney.org



## SEPTEMBER FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Sept. 2020	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 43,044	\$ 159,103	\$ 200,392
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (66,851)	\$ (230,346)	\$ (220,509)

Total 2020-2021 Ministry Budget: \$798,474.97

Facilities Budget:	Sept. 2020	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 6,421	\$ 23,292	\$ 27,081
Expenditures	\$ (2,750)	\$ (9,208)	\$ (13,971)

Total 2020-2021 Facilities Budget: \$30,000

## Giving Options

In addition to traditional giving options for your convenience First Lutheran offers online giving!

**GIVE PLUS:** which allows people to make financial contributions to the church electronically in the following ways:

1. Online (just go to the First Lutheran website under the "Resources" tab),
2. Mobile App (download the Give Plus app on the iPhone or Android, create a profile and search for "First Lutheran"), or
3. Text (just text the donation amount to 308-470-5058 and you will be prompted with further instructions).

Give Plus features PCI Level 1 security compliance so it's a secure choice, and offers a convenient way of supporting the church anytime from anywhere with the use of your smartphone or computer.

**SIMPLY GIVING:** another electronic option where your gift is paid through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. Just contact Marti in the church office for the form to sign up for this convenient option.

If you choose to contribute with a check and are not using offering envelopes, please write your offering envelope number on your check to enable us to record your contributions accurately on your statement. Please note that contributions to the Ministry Budget and Facilities Budget may be combined in one check.

If you have any questions or would like assistance in using any of the above electronic giving options or would like to receive offering envelopes, please contact Marti in the church office.

Thank you so much for your faithful generosity to First Lutheran Church's ministry!

# COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from your Council,

What a year it's been!

As we continue to navigate these "uncharted waters" of COVID-19, please know our Pastors and staff are working countless hours to provide you with information about services and events here at First Lutheran Church. The committees remain active providing everything from adult forums and outreach opportunities to a safe building, youth programs, and new member recruitment. The website is up and provides valuable information. And, of course, we can't overlook the fact that we have the capability to view church services online. There are so many positive things happening here at First. And not one of them is COVID, because we are being smart about how we continue to move forward.

The Council has the pleasure of working with these groups and supporting the decisions they make to grow our spiritual lives here at First Lutheran. We are always open to feedback, so please feel free to contact any member of the Council with questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions.

We all have had decisions to make during these past months that impact our families and our daily lives. Not every decision has been our favorite. Not everything has gone our way. At the beginning of this year, not one of us looked at 2020 and predicted such difficult times for our world, nation, community, or church. We have had to take it "one day at a time", and trust that God will help us make the correct decisions.

Stay Positive, Stay Healthy, Stay Safe  
First Lutheran Church Council

## **Philippians 2:14 -16 (The Message)**

"Do everything readily and cheerfully – no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing."



## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Kim Troudt  
*President*

Dave Zimmer  
*Vice President*

Lee Fritson  
*Treasurer*

Judy Henning  
*Secretary*

Rachel Leach

Miranda  
Obermeier

Kelly  
Russman

Michael  
Rafferty

Mark Kottmeyer

## **Have questions?**

Contact information for our Congregational Council Representatives is available in the narthex or the church office.

# WORSHIP THEMES

## NOVEMBER 1

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST REVELATION 7:9-17, PSALM  
34:1-10, 22, 1 JOHN 3:1-3, MATTHEW 5:1-12

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the reading and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

## NOVEMBER 7-8

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST AMOS 5:18-24, SOLOMON 6:12-16, PSALM 70, 1 THESS 4:13-18, MATTHEW 25:1-13.

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

## NOVEMBER 14-15

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18, PSALM  
90:1-8 [9-11] 12, 1 THESS 5:1-11, MATTHEW  
25:14-30.

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

## NOVEMBER 21-22

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24, PSALM 95:1-7A,  
EPHESIANS 1:15-23, MATTHEW 25:31-46

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

## NOVEMBER 28-29

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
ISAIAH 64:1-9, PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19, 1  
CORINTHIANS 1:3-9, MARK 13:24-37.

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.



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Sign up for weekly E-mail  
updates: *Send request to:*  
[office@firstlutheran Kearney.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran Kearney.org)



LIVE Radio Broadcast:  
**Sundays 8:45 AM – KXPB 1460  
AM**



LIVE Webstream Broadcast:  
**Sundays 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM**  
[www.firstlutheran Kearney.org](http://www.firstlutheran Kearney.org)



# PRAY AND SERVE

## PRAYER WARRIORS

This is an email prayer group. *It is not a prayer chain, so you do not need to send this on to anyone.* When you sign up, you will periodically be sent a prayer via email. After you receive the prayer all you need to do is read/pray the prayer at your convenience. It is that simple. We hope you enjoy this convenient way to use the power of prayer.

To become a "Prayer Warrior" simply email your name and email address to Theress Bricker at [tmbricker4@gmail.com](mailto:tmbricker4@gmail.com) and ask that you be added to the "Prayer Warrior" group.

If you have any questions or have a prayer request please contact: Sister Ruth Ellen at (308) 455-1432, Margene Dahlstedt (308) 627-6337 or Theress Bricker at (308) 233-2469.

## JOIN A PRAYER CHAIN

Help pray for brothers and sisters in Christ or share requests for prayer. Paul reminds us "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". (Phil 4:6).

Telephone prayer chain members are led by Jeanette Andersen (308- 237-3634), Marlene Kotrc (308-234-3293).

If you would like to participate in email prayer requests, pass your request along to the church office or Theress Bricker ([tmbricker4@gmail.com](mailto:tmbricker4@gmail.com)).

Requests will be emailed to you for your prayer time.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Wednesday in the coffee area from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. during the school year. Please join us for knitting, crocheting, conversation, and prayer. If you have any questions, or if you know of someone who might be able to use a Prayer Shawl as a tangible reminder of God's love and grace during hard times and good times, please call Theress Bricker (308) 233-2469. **Will not meet in November.**

## How one of our members serves during this time of COVID:

Shelby (Maloley) Shipp (UNK 2014) shares her experience as a nurse working through a pandemic and the importance of community support.

*This is a complicated time for health care workers. It is a time of high stress and uncertainty, how we care for our patients changes daily, and going forward, health care will not be the same. COVID-19 is indiscriminate; it can affect all ages. Having a foundation as an ICU nurse, I have been somewhat prepared to deal with difficult times, but not of this magnitude.*

*It is difficult not allowing family members into the hospital to be with their loved ones. As nurses, we try our best to come up with innovative ways to communicate with family members and console our patients on a daily basis. It's so rewarding witnessing patients being able to breathe on their own without the support of any machines and FaceTime with their families for the first time in weeks. Seeing the joy and appreciation in their faces reminds me why I chose the nursing profession.*

*I have also witnessed hospital employees from various departments coming together and uniting as one to adapt and overcome obstacles in order to provide that highest level of patient care. We have received an outpouring of support and encouragement from Kearney and the surrounding community and at the hospital have been motivating and inspiring and will truly never be forgotten. Shelby is an RN at CHI Health Good Samaritan in Kearney.*

**Please keep Shelby and all health care workers in your prayers!**

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# WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

## Prayers of peace and comfort for:

The friends and family of Adyn Stevens on his death.

The friends and family of Myron & Diane Riddle and Dave and Renae Zimmer on the death of Brady Hanson.

The family and friends of Janiene Rewerts, Randy Hinrichs, and Pam Epley on the death of their cousin, Karen Hawley.



## Prayers of Joy & Thanksgiving for the Baptism of:

The Second Graders on the reception of their Bibles

The Baptism of Blaise Alan Peterson, son of Cole and Blair Peterson.

Bryan and Susan Slater and family on the birth of Susan's Grandson, Jaxtyn Danger McCollough.

## *Prayers and Reflections*



## Congratulations to our November Volunteers of the Month: Care & Growth Team!

This team consists of Stefani Wegner, (chairperson), Amy Brandt, Pastor Michelle, Pastor Rick, Pastor Elisabeth, Michelle Dutcher, Stephanie Fehringer, Amanda Lewis, Dave Wright, Rachel Leach, Keith Powell, Christie Behle, and Eve Shipp.

The Care and Growth Team provides opportunities for Christian Education for all members. They are responsible for Sunday School, Vacation Bible school, programming for children and high school youth, and all adult education opportunities. They assist the pastors with Confirmation ministry; help with recruiting and equipping of educational leaders; reviewing and maintaining curriculum. Some activities related to Care and Growth are the outdoor reverse parade in May, Dawg Days of Summer, Trunk or Treat, Reading with Pastor Michelle, Exploring the Bible with Pastor Rick, FLY Holiday Auction, Confirmation, FROG, Advent Fair, and First Communion. Care and Growth members are hands on with these activities to includes manning tables, help set up and tear down, and help with the event, Temple Talks among other things.

We would like to give a hearty "Thank You" for all your time, energy and hard work to help us grow in faith!

# WOMEN of the ELCA

Taking time to watch the sunrise the fall colors bring out the beauty of God's creation. The blessings of a bountiful harvest in Nebraska and across the nation reminds us this is the time to help each other, share and give. Families who may be struggling due to these difficult times can be aided with a few groceries, or prepared meal; offering a break in childcare for a friend; or calling to visit with elderly or lonely. You gain a new perspective on life by helping others and often you benefit by sharing with friends. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Thanks to our friends at 1733 Farms for their generous donations of pumpkins for decorating the entries to First Lutheran Church.

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (W.E.L.C.A.) First Lutheran Church Board met via Zoom September 28, 2020 due to high risk of **COVID 19**. The W.E.L.C.A. Board approved the following expenditures.

**Charitable donations for WELCA were approved as follows:**

**Safe Center - \$200; Jubilee Center - \$200; Campus Lutheran Kearney - \$300; Compass - \$300; Lutheran World Relief (LWR) shipping \$100 and LWR kits \$100; Nebraska Lutheran Outreach Mission - \$200; Nebraska Synod- \$100; Pastors' Discretionary Fund \$400.**

**The Personal Care Kit Supplies (towels, soap, shampoo, etc.) and Baby Kit diapers and supplies are still needed.**

## Upcoming Events

**Upcoming Events 2020 - 2021: First Lutheran Church Theress Bricker Mission Relief Chairperson tentatively scheduled the packing of LWR Mission supplies for shipping on November 2, 2020.**

**November WELCA Board - Zoom meeting to be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

**NO FALL NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization activities from the NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization ALL S.W.O. ACTIVITIES TO END OF YEAR 2020 HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.**

**April 30 & May 1 & 2, 2021(Note-Next Year!) The next Save to Serve will be at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Nebraska S.W.O. will collect your Mosaic Activity/Sensory/Fidget Mat Special Project as part of the program. The event emphasis is Mosaic and the lodging will be at the camp Holling.**

**Save To Serve Lynch, NE -Niobrara Valley House of Renewal was POSTPONED to AUGUST 6-8, 2021**



Ladies who are interested in joining a monthly Bible study are invited to attend a women's circle. Circles can be joined at any time during the year.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Lil Larson (308)-224-6207**

**Judy Workman (308)-237-2781**

**Secretary:**

**Bev Vacha (308)-468-6239**

**Treasurer:**

**Jo Smallcomb (308)-234-3053**



**ABIGAIL CIRCLE (SEPT.-MAY)**

9:00 am—3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Joan Swanson

(308-234-2835) and Evy Kuecker

(308-237-5651)

**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

7:00 pm—3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Deb Schauer (308-233-

2669) and Ellen Epp (308-234-

5696)

**GLORIA CIRCLE**

12:00pm—3rd Thursday

Chair: Karen Foster (308-234-2157)

**NAOMI CIRCLE**

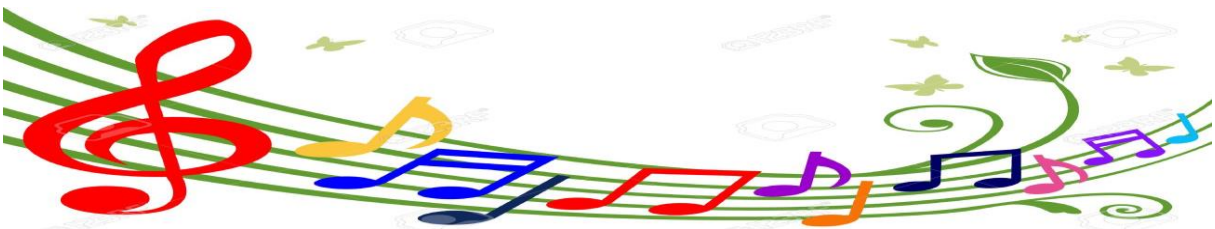
7:30pm—4th Thursday (3rd Thurs. in

Nov.) Chair: Judy Niemann

(308)-234-4332

# MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Group	Age Group	When	Where	Director	Start Date
<b>Chancel Choir</b>	Adults	Wednesdays 7:00-8:15pm	North Hall	CJ Sabah	Working in Small Groups
<b>Chancel Bells</b>	High School and Adults	Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm	Sanctuary	Natalie Radcliffe	Began in September
<b>Worship Teams For Contemporary Service</b>	High School and Adults	Wednesdays 5:30pm	Choir Room		Cancelled Until Further Notice  Due to COVID-19
<b>Heavenly Treble Makers</b>	Grades 6-12	Wednesdays 6:00-6:30pm	Room 9	Angela Wright	Began in October
<b>Praiser Bells</b>	Grades 3-8	Wednesdays 5:15-5:45pm	Sanctuary	Angela Wright	Began in October
<b>Children's Choir</b>	Pre-K through Grade 5	Meet during FROG & Sunday School		Amanda Lewis	Began in October



# WEDNESDAY NIGHT NEWS

## Schedule for Wednesday Evenings through November 18th

### **No Feeding the Flock at this time**

- 5:15-5:45 Praiser Bells in the Sanctuary
- 6:00-6:30 Heavenly Treble Makers in Room 9
- 6:00-7:00 Adult Bible Study with Sister Ruth Ellen in Chapel
- 6:30-8:00 FROG begins in Sanctuary
- 6:30-7:15 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall
- 6:30-7:05 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Large Group Confirmation Class in Rooms 20-21
- 7:05-7:40 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Small Group in Rooms 20-21
- 7:05-7:40 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Small Group in Rooms 18-19
- 7:15-8:00 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall
- 8:02-9:00 Reading with Pastor Michelle via Zoom

**We ask that masks be worn and hand sanitizer be used.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**





# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



If you want to contact  
Pastor Elisabeth:

(308) 237-5544 (office)

[ehimmelman@firstlutheran  
kearney.org](mailto:ehimmelman@firstlutherankearney.org)

## FLY Updates



### **Statewide virtual retreat opportunity:**

Join Lutheran high school youth from across the state for this annual (and first ever virtual) retreat!

Featuring artist & poet Joe Davis.

Large & small group sessions with FLY and all participants on Zoom. We will do some aspects together at FLC as we are able to do so safely (TBD).

### **Cost: \$30 by Nov. 19**

\*register & pay online: <https://tinyurl.com/yyqhxrlc>

Paper forms available on Wed. nights. Contact Pastor Elisabeth with questions!

### **FLY Meets Wednesdays @ 7pm & Sundays @ 9:55am**

FLY continues to meet on Wednesdays @ 7pm – we will gather on the East Lawn for a few minutes then break into small groups during November.

We also meet for a more intimate conversation on a variety of topics ranging from forgiveness to social justice on Sundays @ 9:55 am in the basement.

A few notes:

\*No food allowed at any FLC gatherings through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

\*Please bring a mask for all indoor activities.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (CONTINUED)

Dear friends,

*“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased..” [Then] Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.” – Luke 3:21-22 & 4:1-2*

Jesus went into the desert with the baptismal waters of the Jordan still clinging to him, and with the name *Beloved* ringing in his ears... and the promise of Jesus is that in our own desert wildernesses, Jesus is with us, calling us *beloved*.

I know it's not news to name that we're in a wilderness time in 2020. While wilderness does not equal hopelessness, I don't think it hurts to be reminded: God has already named you beloved.

In Christ, Pastor Elisabeth

There is a blessing by Jan Richardson in her book *Circle of Grace* that has become my mantra (and maybe you heard it at my ordination). I invite you to receive this blessing as a prayer:

## “Beloved Is Where We Begin”

If you would enter  
into the wilderness,  
do not begin  
without a blessing.

Do not leave  
without hearing  
who you are:

Beloved,  
named by the One  
who has traveled this path  
before you.

Do not go  
without letting it echo  
in your ears,  
and if you find  
it is hard  
to let it into your heart,  
do not despair.

That is what  
this journey is for.

I cannot promise  
this blessing will free you  
from danger,  
from fear,

from hunger or thirst,  
from the scorching  
of sun  
or the fall  
of the night.

But I can tell you  
that on this path  
there will be help.

I can tell you  
that on this way  
there will be rest.

I can tell you  
that you will know  
that strange graces  
that come to our aid  
only on a road  
such as this,

that fly to meet us  
bearing comfort  
and strength,  
that come alongside us  
for no other cause  
than to lean themselves  
toward our ear  
and with their

curious insistence  
whisper our name:

*Beloved.*  
*Beloved.*  
*Beloved.*

# FLY FUNDRAISER EVENT



## FLY Annual Silent Auction In-Person & Agape Meal via Zoom

2020... what a year! First Lutheran Youth invite you to set aside some time to reflect, spread joy, and anticipate the birth of Christ with our annual Christmas-time fundraiser with a 2020 twist!

There are *two components* to this event:

### Part 1: Silent Auction – Sunday, November 21 – Sunday, December 6

Support FLY and get your Christmas shopping done!

- If there is a need to pivot for health and safety reasons, bidding will be available the same dates online (or by phone to the church office). In this case, items will be available for delivery or pickup.

#### ***Able to donate to the silent auction?***

We would love your donations! Please deliver to the church office by **Wednesday, November 18**.

Some ideas for gifts: theme baskets: holiday décor, movie night, game night; wine, coffee, or chocolate lovers basket; homemade items; online shopping spree; event tickets; a Kearney or Nebraska themed basket... the options are endless!

### Part 2: Advent Agape Meal via Zoom – Sunday, December 6 @ 6-7:30pm

*What is in Agape Meal?* It is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ – with a 2020 twist: it's on Zoom!

You prepare your simple meal at home, ready to serve, and join the Zoom! FLY will host this event that is part worship, part storytelling, part fellowship and eating together, and all heart.

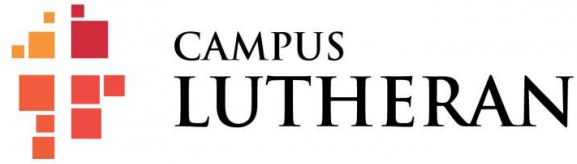
Two surprise live auction items will be featured on Zoom, so be ready for bidding!

To attend the Advent Agape Meal via Zoom, you are asked only for a free-will donation of any amount. You can make a donation by:

- Stopping by the FLY table in the narthex on November 29 or December 6 @10-11am
- Cash or check designated "FLY Agape Meal" to the offering box or sent to church office
- Contacting Pastor Elisabeth: [ehimmelman@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:ehimmelman@firstlutherankearney.org)

**Please RSVP by Sunday, December 6 @ 12pm.** The Zoom link will be shared with all participants on the afternoon of the event. We hope you'll join us!

# CAMPUS LUTHERAN ELECTION DAY PURPLE ZONE



## Election Day Purple Zone: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

**Cast your vote in the 2020 election and then...**

**Leave your red or blue at the door, and enter the Purple Zone at Campus Lutheran: a non-partisan space to slow down, pray, and be fed.**

*Individually wrapped to-go snacks will be available all hours to fortify your day.*

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>8:30-8:45am</b>  | <b>Election Day Morning Prayer and Holy Communion on front lawn</b><br>By the fire (in sanctuary if inclement weather)   |
| <b>9am-12pm</b>     | <b>Sanctuary and Patio Open for quiet space:</b><br>Distanced prayer stations available to engage individual, experiential, reflective encounters with your faith. |
| <b>12-12:30pm</b>   | <b>Election Day Midday Prayer on front lawn by the fire</b><br>(in sanctuary if inclement weather)   |
| <b>12:30-1:00pm</b> | <b>BE FED! Free Jimmy John's Sandwiches to-go on the front lawn</b>  |
| <b>1:00-6:00pm</b>  | <b>Sanctuary and Patio Open for quiet space:</b><br>Prayer stations available to engage individual, experiential, reflective encounters with your faith.           |
| <b>6:00-6:30pm</b>  | <b>BE FED! Free Panera Soup and Chips to-go on the front lawn</b>  |
| <b>7:45-8:00pm</b>  | <b>Yoga as Prayer in Sanctuary:</b><br>Distanced 15 minutes of simple facilitated yoga to engage body and faith.   |
| <b>8:15-8:30pm</b>  | <b>Election Day Evening Prayer and Communion by Candlelight</b><br>in Sanctuary  |

***\*Covid19 precautions: Masks and sign-in required. Ample hand sanitizer and masks available. Sanitization will occur between each event.\****

# FLC OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY: SCOUTING

## Why Scouting? And a call for help!

As many in the congregation are aware, First Lutheran sponsors two scouting units – one Troop for boys from age 12-18 and one Pack for boys and girls from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The purpose for any church to sponsor scouting units is to extend its youth ministry in ways beyond typical Wednesday night and Sunday morning educational activities. The Boy Scouts of America grants organizations like ours a charter that allows us to use their materials to conduct our youth ministry.

### Aims and Methods

The aims for any scouting unit are to help the youth in four ways: character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Every scout includes in the Oath they recite at every meeting a recognition of their Duty to God, the need to help others at all times, and to try to improve their physical, mental, and spiritual fitness.



It is often said by leaders in the scouting movement that there cannot be Scouting without Outing. Scouting is focused on building skills and confidence often in an outdoor setting. Kids of all ages are drawn to outdoor adventures and this provides an excellent opportunity to build character, teach skills, and develop leadership.

### Troops

Scouts BSA Troops, for the older youth, are youth-led, meaning that with the guidance of adult mentors, youth run their own meetings, teach many of the required skills to the younger youth, and plan their own activities. Our troop is one of the best in the whole scouting council! We have excellent leaders and great parent involvement.

### Packs

Cub Scout Packs, for the younger boys and girls, are led, planned and organized by adults, primarily the parents of the youth in the pack. Cub Scouting is considered a family program – one in which the whole family – boys and girls and parents – are meant to participate. Our pack is struggling and without the help of caring members of the church will cease to exist.



Ask yourself – Do I care enough about the youth in the community to volunteer a few hours a month to develop the next generation of leaders? If so, please contact our Scout Chartered Organization Representative, Scott Darveau, to discuss volunteer needs and opportunities. He can be reached at [darveausa@unk.edu](mailto:darveausa@unk.edu) or (308)- 627-5545

# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Greetings from Pre-K!

October started off with the class learning and talking about fall. We painted leaves with frost on them (glitter), learned about why leaves change, went on a leaf hunt and did leaf rubbings.

Pumpkins took over in mid-month and the children were able to pick their own pumpkins and gourds that were donated by 1733 Produce and Pumpkins. They are located off Highway 30, 2 miles west of Kearney. The path appeared right in front of our rooms! A Big Thank you for their generosity.

We also had Red Day, Orange Day, Silly Sock day and a Halloween party. We ended the month with learning about nocturnal animals which was appropriate for Halloween week.

Next month looks to be a great month to learn all about being thankful and helping others. So, until then God Bless and stay safe and well.

God Bless,  
Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya

Happy November!

The 3 yr. old classroom is showing so much growth since we began! The class is having a blast everyday coming to school wearing a different color and sharing an object that can be the same color. They are learning to introduce themselves and do so in complete sentences. The progress is amazing. We will have gone through almost the colors by the time we reach Halloween.

Our themes have been Fall Fun, where we learned about how the season is fall. Then we had a week where we learned about how apples and pumpkins grow. The students made a lift the flap paper that showed the development from seed to pumpkin. They also got to paint with actual halves of apples.

This week we are learning about life on the farm. They are making a tractor on paper using shapes they have already learned. The students are learning to cut the oval shape. As a fun activity the kids got a chance to make butter!

Next week we begin to get into Halloween fun with making a monster mask and learning to read "5 Little Pumpkins"! We get to learn about reading with witch fingers. They have never learned about pointing to words and so lots of new experiences happen every month!

November means we will talking about how thankful we are for everything that God has provided us!

Have a blessed November!  
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Lora



# NOVEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



Last day for FROG and Confirmation is **November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Last day for Sunday School is **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Resumes January 6<sup>th</sup>



FLY Silent Auction Fundraiser

Please drop off donations by **November 18<sup>th</sup>** to the church office.

Contact the office for more information.



LYON Assembly for the Youth a Virtual Retreat! Cost is \$30. Deadline is **November 19<sup>th</sup>**!



It is that time of year again! Time to order your Christmas Poinsettias. We use these to decorate our Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. The plants will be available again this year for \$14.95 (will include bow and plate). You are welcome to mail or deliver the form to the office at no later than, **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to put in honor or in memory of someone you can add this as well.

First Lutheran Church, ELCA  
3315 G Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847-3699

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RECEIVING  
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020

3315 G Avenue - Kearney, Nebraska 68847

**Missing the calendar page?  
Check it out on our website:**

**<https://firstlutherankearney.org/calendar/>**

**PHONE: 308-237-5544    WEB: [www.firstlutherankearney.org](http://www.firstlutherankearney.org)**