

# 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,

Typically, year in and year out, sports/news/entertainment programs the last few weeks of December will include a “Year in Review” show. As I write this article exactly two weeks before New Year’s Eve, I cannot help but think of how 2020 unfolded. For many of us, 2020 was a pretty, crummy year. 95% of the crummy has been COVID related and all that we could NOT do (although personally I will throw into the mix “having brain surgery” as part of my own crummy-ness for 2020). Each of us can make our personal laundry lists of how COVID has taken so much away from our lives and our living. Pastor Elisabeth, Pastor Michelle, and I have regularly lamented that nobody taught us how to do ministry in the midst of a pandemic, and so we try to bump along as best we can (as do you).

Even with the prospect of vaccinations on the horizon, we all know that everything will not suddenly get all better on January 1, 2021. Nevertheless, despite all that we could not do in 2020, it is important for us to remember all that God could and did do throughout 2020. God has been there for us when we have prayed. God has been with all our church members and family members who were hospitalized with COVID. God has empowered our worship and praise whether in-person or virtually. God has carried us onward even when we have struggled to move forward. God has helped us through our challenging times and helped us be there for others in their challenging times. Yes, I can make a long, crummy “Year in Review” list for 2020. Yet when I think of how God has been at work through all of you, 2020 does not seem to be as bad as I might make it.

We do not know when our COVID nightmare will be fully behind us. We do not know what a post-COVID reality will mean for our congregation. What we do know, however, is that our God is with us and working for and through us no matter what our outward circumstances are or will be. Knowing that really does help me get up and get on with my day on a regular basis. Thanks be to God!

God’s Peace,  
Pastor Rick

## A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



# COVID-19 UPDATE

Your elected council met Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and had yet another conversation about worshipping together on weekends and in-person activities. We decided upon the following:

1. **Worship services on Sundays will remain remote-only through the first two weeks in January.** Please join us on Facebook, website, or ROKU to worship with us at 8:45am. The services will also be archived for later viewing.
2. **All in-person activities will remain on hiatus through January 12<sup>th</sup>.**
3. **We will continue to have the office open from 8am-12noon, Monday through Friday** for drop-offs or in-person business (if absolutely necessary).

We will meet again at our normally scheduled time of Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

We very much appreciate your understanding during this extremely difficult time. We continue to pray for all of you!

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 <p><a href="http://www.elca.org">http://www.elca.org</a> 800-638-3522</p>	 <p><a href="http://www.nebraskasynod.org">http://www.nebraskasynod.org</a> 402-896-5311</p>
 <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>	



## MMI REACH Clinic

### Free Behavioral Telehealth Services for Children and Adolescents

*Available for up to six free appointments, which may include assessment services. Offered in English and Spanish.*

The MMI Psychology Department at UNMC is offering free behavioral telehealth treatment and assessment services. This service is available for families regardless of insurance coverage.

Therapy and assessment services are offered via Zoom (a free teleconferencing platform via smartphone, tablet, or computer) or by phone.

To schedule an appointment call 402-559-6408. State that you are interested in scheduling an appointment with the REACH Clinic at MMI.

This is a non-emergency service. If your family is experiencing an emergency please contact the Nebraska Family Helpline at 888-866-8660 or 911.

**Our behavioral health clinicians can provide the following support:**

- Managing difficult child behaviors (difficulty following directions, difficulty at meal times, school refusal, sleep concerns)
- Provide treatment for youth with mood concerns, anxiety, and self-harm behaviors
- Provide diagnostic assessment services
- Help with developing positive family communication and relationships
- Connect families with local resources
- Help families cope with COVID-19 (scan code below)



# TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

## From Mission Outreach...

### VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism: The use or involvement of volunteer labor, especially in community services. The practice of providing time and skills for the benefit of other people and causes rather than for financial benefit. Covid has restricted the ways our church has been able to gather in large groups to assist the Jubilee center, Campus Lutheran and others.

Because of this in October we brought together some members of First Lutheran Church to discuss their volunteer activities. We are happy to see that Volunteerism is alive and well at FLC. We have members providing home meals to neighbors and shut ins, meals at church for the needy, building low-income homes, providing cards to shut ins, teaching English to immigrants, providing clothing to those in need, supporting the children's museum, assisting the Salvation Army, helping children cope with broken families, guiding and helping middle and high school students strengthen their skills, protecting wildlife and more.

Since we cannot gather in large groups this fall/winter we wanted to provide you with ideas on how to help your fellow members of the community. We have provided a list of 30 ideas for you to help those in need. If you desire, you may provide them a Random Act of Kindness card to let them know that the source of the assistance. We encourage everyone to reach out wherever and whenever they can. During this time of Coronavirus we need to reach out and make sure our neighbors are being cared for.

### JUBILEE MEALS

In January – March for the past few years First Lutheran Church has been hosting the Jubilee meals for anyone that needs a meal. In January we have also been providing the meals and servers. Due to Coronavirus the Jubilee Center has discontinued the Thursday night meals until further notice.

In lieu of providing the meals in 2021 we are promoting that our members collect food for the Jubilee food pantry by bringing non-perishable goods that we will provide to the center.

Food items may be dropped off at the church from now until the start of Lent. We will provide a drop box or cart in the Narthex to drop off your items.

### BODY PRAYER FOR JANUARY

In the midst of the COVID pandemic and in the middle of winter, it is not always easy for us to be physically active. So, our Mission Outreach team would like to share a link each month to a website that features "Body Prayers." A body prayer gives us an opportunity to combine physical activity and prayerful devotion. Here is the body prayer link for January:

Peace be with you based on John 20:19-21

<http://ateneo.edu/ateneoishome/article/body-prayer>



# TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

## From Witness and Members...

While we are worshipping at a distance, we still have folks interested in joining our congregation and mission! In September, our team took FLC T-shirts and treats to those who identified themselves as wanting to join. We have also kept them in the loop as far as changes due to COVID-19. Thankfully, we were able to have our New Members Classes in November. Unfortunately, we were unable to have the Reception of New Members on November 22<sup>nd</sup> as we went back to online worship only. We look forward to having them join officially when we resume in-person worship.

We look forward to welcoming:

Bob and Diane Adams

Jason and Kathy Arrants

Karen Emal

Jacob, Elisabeth, and Jens Himmelman

Logan Kunc

Melanie Roberts

Trevor Roberts

Trelby Virus

If you know someone who missed classes this time around, there will be another set of classes in the Spring.



# OFFICE UPDATES



## FLC STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

### Church Office

office@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

rcarlson@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Pastor Michelle Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

mcarlson@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Pastor Elisabeth Himmelman

Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Young Adults

ehimmelman@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Kandy Bacon

Administrative Assistant

kbacon@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Marti Brockmeier

Bookkeeper

martibroekmeier@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Natalie Radcliffe

Worship Music Coordinator

natalieradcliffe@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Adam Eilers

Maintenance Coordinator

aeilers@firstlutheran Kearney.org

### Judy O'Donnell

Preschool Director

judyodonnell@firstlutheran Kearney.org



## NOVEMBER FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	NOV 2020	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 52,771	\$ 264,409	\$ 288,944
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (58,103)	\$ (341,526)	\$ (330,411)

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

Facilities Budget:	NOV. 2020	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 7,098	\$ 41,732	\$ 43,782
Expenditures	\$ (360)	\$ (12,176)	\$ (15,921)

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).

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

Happy New Year!

As we put this year into the “rear view mirror,” and look forward to all 2021 holds for us, we must continue to be mindful of the plans and purposes of God for our lives. I’m quite sure this past year held many challenges. For some, it also created feelings of hopelessness, despair, and grief, which either caused faith to grow stronger or to be questioned, which is ok. But now it’s time for new beginnings! It's time for a fresh start! It's time to make some resolutions!

True, we don’t know what COVID will bring for the new year, but I feel truly blessed to be a member of First Lutheran Church. Even though we have not been together physically, our time together in worship and mission has been amazing. I was overjoyed by the outpouring of gifts for our members in care homes, and by the attendance at our Christmas Eve outdoor service. I enjoy attending the Sunday morning 8:45 a.m. Facebook service and seeing the many messages posted which share the peace and thanksgiving. We are ONE congregation, with ONE mission – Receiving God’s Grace, Sharing God’s Love, Uniting in Christ.

It is my hope, we can be together again soon. But for now, know we are doing what’s best for all. Please consider these new year’s resolutions: Prayer, Investment in Spiritual Gifts, Recommitment to First Lutheran’s Mission, and Outreach to others.

In peace,

Kim Troudt  
First Lutheran Council President



## 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

## JANUARY 3

### SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JEREMIAH 31:7-14; PSALM 147:12-20;  
EPHESIANS 1:3-14; JOHN 1[1-9]10-18

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

## JANUARY 10

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

GENESIS 1:1-5, PSALM 29, ACTS 19:1-7,  
MARK 1:4-11

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make it clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

## JANUARY 17

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10[11-20]; PSALM 130:1-6, 13-18, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20; JOHN 1:43-51

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons; but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where-or rather whom- we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and ...the gate of heaven" (Gen 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

## JANUARY 24

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JONAH 3:1-5,10; PSALM 62:5-12; 1  
CORINTHIANS 7:29-31; MARTH 1:14-20

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show up the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

## JANUARY 31

### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20; PSALM 111; 1  
CORINTHIANS 8:1-13; MARK 1:21-28

In Deuteronomy, God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111, God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We counter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.



"LIKE" us on Facebook:  
**First Lutheran Church –  
Kearney**



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

## 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 [tibricker4@gmail.com](mailto:tibricker4@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 ([tibricker4@gmail.com](mailto:tibricker4@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 January.**

## Prayers of peace and comfort for...

The friends and family of the Wright family on the death of Angie’s uncle, Virgil Kathol.

The friends and family of the Lewis family on the death of Amanda’s grandma, Dorothy Evans.

The family and friends of Nicolas Krause.

The friends and family of Jennie Turner & family on the death of Jennie’s father, Thomas Koch.

The friends and family of Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein & family on the death of Pete Ampe, Sister Ruth Ellen’s niece’s husband.

The family and friends of Bill and Elaine Kreie, the parents of Laura Love, who died.



Thank you for all your generous donations to members of our church who donated items for the cheer packages. We had several members volunteer and over 55 recipients who received this heartfelt donation bag. The outreach that was felt by everyone was truly overwhelming and such a blessing to everyone involved. We just wanted to offer our sincerest "Thank You" to everyone who played a part in this project; but especially Kim Troudt for heading up this task.



## **Congratulations to our January Volunteers of the Month: The Imaging Team!**

The Imaging Team are the behind-the-scenes members who make sure that everyone can see and hear weekly the love and peace that Jesus provides by way of video and sound. They ensure that the sound board and livestream is up and running smoothly. This team also helps in times of Christmas programs, livestreaming funerals, VBS music and program, special concerts, and festival worship services. This team makes decisions on ROKU devices, wireless microphones for the Pastors, handling equipment issues, contacting Platte Valley Communications, and deciding what to do when there are problems. This team not only works solely in the sound booth area, but they also help move equipment to and from the church to outside events along with the set up and tear down. The team meets monthly to discuss what is coming up that month and further down the road. Then they map out a plan to proceed in getting it resolved.

According to our Congregation's Constitution, the Imaging & Technology Team exists to assess, provide, and implement technology in all its varied forms to enhance worship and Christian education; and to assist the congregation in communicating with each other and with the greater community. This team also consults with staff on the purchase of, and oversees the maintenance of, all computers and technology within the church facility.

This is a very dedicated team which works extremely hard to bring the word of First Lutheran Church to members in the community. Please let them know that you appreciate all of their hard work. Members of the Imaging Team are Adam Wegner (Chair), Dave Behle, Pastor Michelle Carlson, Scott Darveau, Michael Epley, Pam Epley, Kyle Means, Tyler Schwartz, Carrie Stithem and Lee Fritson (Council Rep).

# WOMEN of the ELCA

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a fresh start for the New Year will hopefully bring us back together in church for services (pending COVID). We are all ready to get back to having a new start to practice our faith and be there for each other. Please continue to keep in touch with those homebound or in nursing homes. Your calls to friends are uplifting for them and you! Some of the Circles had a card shower over Christmas, and it was fun to hear from each other.

A big thank you to the Pre-school for making beautiful Gold Glitter Pinecones to decorate the trees in front of the entrances at First Lutheran Church. The kids did a great job making the trees shine in the sun and reflect God's light. The kids work helped get us all in the Christmas spirit. We hope the teachers and students are in good health for the start of the New Year!

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (W.E.L.C.A.) First Lutheran Church Board will meet via Zoom on January 4, 2021, due to high risk of COVID. Those wanting to join the meeting at the Library location (If you do not have dial in capabilities), please contact Judy Workman to allow for an accurate count of attendees to meet Library COVID requirements.

## Upcoming Events

**January 4, 2021, WELCA Board meeting – Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

**NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization activities from the NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization ALL S.W.O. ACTIVITIES are being rescheduled at this time. Mostly Zoom meetings!**

**April 30 & May 1 & 2, 2021 - The next Saved to Serve will be at Camp Carol Joy Holling (Pending COVID). 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 Carol Joy 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

# 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)

Dear First Lutheran,

## **God's answer is always yes...**

The first time my pastor said this to me, I was in my first year of full-time youth ministry. I had all the questions, all the doubt about my ability to carry out the ministry, and then, even more questions... of myself, of how on earth this ministry thing is supposed to work, of God.

And frankly, those feelings are not all that unfamiliar, beginning my first call in pastoral ministry in the middle of a pandemic!

But she kept saying it to me when I would go to her with questions and confusion, and it started to sink in. The Holy Spirit has a way of doing that kind of thing.

And scripture seemed to really back up her words:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you...” (Matthew 7:7).

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7).

“For in God every one of God's promises is a ‘Yes.’ For this reason, it is through God that we say the ‘Amen’, to the glory of God.” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

And those are just a few New Testament examples. There is the Israelites escape out of Egypt, Job's suffering, and so many more examples of God showing up with God's “yes” for God's people.

## **God's answer is always yes.**

And God's “yes” doesn't often look like how we imagine, determine, or turn out to be just what we asked for.

Even still,

## **God's answer is always yes.**

What if, in the middle of our pandemic fatigue, in our own confusion, in the midst of all our questions and complaints and frustrations we face in our own lives, in our community, in our world – we trusted that God's answer is always “yes” – even though we can't control how God chooses to roll out God's “yes?”

What does God's “yes” to you look like as we enter 2021?

In hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth



# FLY

## FLY Updates

### FLY Silent Auction & Agape Meal: THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for your support of First Lutheran Youth! Our Silent Auction and Agape Meal raised \$3,333 to support a group of amazing humans in faith formation.

Please view our Thank You Video on FLC's homepage: [www.firstlutheran Kearney.org](http://www.firstlutheran Kearney.org).



Fly Scavenger Hunt in September    Fall Wednesday night in Youth Room    Agape Meal on Zoom

### FLY Meets Wednesdays @ 7pm in January

If it is safe to meet in person, we will. Otherwise, stay tuned for Zoom options for check-in, games, and staying connected while apart.

If we are meeting in person, masks are required, and no food is allowed to be eaten in the building.

FLY will meet again on Sunday's @ 9:55am beginning January 10 if in-person worship resumes.

Join our Facebook group and follow us on Instagram for the latest happenings:



[facebook.com/groups/flykearney](https://facebook.com/groups/flykearney)



[@firstluthyouthkearney](https://instagram.com/@firstluthyouthkearney)

# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Happy New Year!

As 2021 begins, we would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. It sure has to be better than last year!

Pre-K ended the year with a December full of fun. We started the month with the theme of hibernation. We even brought our own teddy bears to class to hibernate with.

For the 3rd year in a row, we participated in the Yanney Park Holiday Light Festival. The decorations looked so beautiful, especially with the snow draping over them. We also donated a wreath and small tree to Trails and Rails for their on-line auction. We have participated at the museum for over 5 years decorating trees.

We talked about the true meaning of Christmas and the Nativity. We also made gifts for our parents and had a Christmas Pajama Party before our Christmas break.

We started our Christmas break on December 21st, and we will return on January 6th, 2021.

Again, we want to wish you a very Happy New Year, and may God continue to watch over all of us!

Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya

Happy New Year First Lutheran Congregation!

Right away, the week after Thanksgiving we got the room decorated for Christmas! The kids helped decorate the tree and make ornaments too! We talked and talked about the true meaning of Christmas. They can tell you who Jesus's mother and father are too. They can also tell you where they went and who came to visit baby Jesus. These students are very smart!

Our Christmas parties were a blast and very busy! The students listened to "The Polar Express" being read to them. They made cute picture frames with popsicle sticks and buttons for their parents. They also helped wrap the present and wrote their name on a label! The kids also made a Baby Jesus decoration that can sit on a table. We hope they have fun talking about that first Christmas night! At the end of our party, we had a book exchange and they loved getting their very own new book!

We have begun to assess kids, because in January we have our parent/teacher conferences and talk about how much they have grown. We will also be planning on registration for the 2021/2022 school year.

We hope this new year brings you many joys! These children bring us joy every single day! We are so blessed! God's blessings to you and your loved ones.

Mrs. Lora & Mrs. Amanda



# JANUARY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## Women of the ELCA Board Meeting

January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Via ZOOM



Not meeting right  
now.

## UNTIL January 12<sup>th</sup>:

No in-person activities

Closed Worship Services  
(join us on the radio, Facebook, or  
our website)

Council will discuss the second  
half of January at their meeting  
on January 12<sup>th</sup>



FLY

Wednesday Nights  
@ 7pm  
Via ZOOM

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 155  
Kearney, NE 68847

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RECEIVING  
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

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)**