

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,

Adding one more thing to our daily lives right now seems like an impossible task! Yet, as we turn the calendar page, Epiphany's light is dimming and Lent is drawing near.

We will be having two in-person Ash Wednesday services at 5:30pm and 7:00pm in the sanctuary with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Beginning the next Wednesday evening, we will have our 6:30pm mid-week prayer services where we will be exploring the idea of what fear looks like in our lives and how God's love helps us overcome it.

As we did for the month of November, we will be using a booklet to guide us through the 40 days of lent called "Lenten Micro Practices." In the booklet, you will find a new practice each day to guide you on your journey. Some of the practices will be quick and able to be done on the spot. Other practices may take more time and preparation. The practices are generally grouped around the three pillars of Lent: praying, fasting, and giving.

There is no right or wrong way to engage in these micro practices. Don't be hard on yourself! There is enough of that going on these days! Try them all. Try a few. Adapt them to your life and the members of your household.

The introduction to the booklet offers some tips: read the daily practice in the morning so you have a chance to engage with it during the day; set an alarm on your phone as a reminder; review the day's practice at dinner; mark your favorite practices to make a regular part of your faith life.

Be gentle with yourselves. Try some new things to deepen your faith. Remember that God's grace and love abounds!

In Peace,
Pastor Michelle

A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



COVID-19 UPDATE

1. **Worship services are currently in-person at 8:45am and 11:00am. Masks are required and reservations are requested.** Please join us on Facebook, FLC website, or ROKU to worship with us at either service or on the radio for the 8:45am service. Remember all services will also be archived for later viewing.
2. **The church is open for normal business hours Monday – Friday from 8:30 to 4pm.**
3. **Groups are now able to meet in person if they choose. No food or beverages, please. ZOOM still remains an option to accommodate those who do not wish to meet in person yet.**
4. **There will be a Congregational Meeting on February 7th to discuss a bid for fixing and updating our fire and security systems. It will be in the sanctuary and on Zoom.**

The Council will meet again at our normally scheduled time of Tuesday, February 9th 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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 http://www.elca.org 800-638-3522	 http://www.nebraskasynod.org 402-896-5311
 Lutheran World Relief http://www.lwr.org 800-597-5972	 http://www.nelcm.com/ (308) 234-1828
 http://www.nlom.org 402-944-2544	

WORSHIP NEWS – LENT



Ash Wednesday Services

Join us @ 5:30pm or @ 7:00pm for Ash Wednesday worship in the sanctuary.

There will be Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

As with all of our services in the time of COVID, masks are required and reservations are recommended.

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear: Evening Prayer for Lent

Join us @ 6:30pm on Wednesday nights during Lent as we explore what the Bible has to say about fear and God's everlasting love.

As with all of our services in the time of COVID, masks are required and reservations are recommended.



For your daily Lenten Journey

Join us as we explore Lenten Micro Practices. You can pick up a paper booklet in the narthex, find it on our website to download and print, or follow it on Facebook and Instagram.

Hope in the Wilderness



Seeking the Spirit Within

Online Winter Retreat

February 20, 2021 9:00AM- 4:00PM

Join in for a renewing day of learning and practicing 5 types of prayer, all led by certified Spiritual Directors from across the state.

Cost: \$35

Early bird registration of \$30 available until February 5th.

Find out more and register at:

<https://stswwinterretreat.weebly.com/>

-or-

Scan the code in the corner.



HELPING OTHERS

Mission Outreach is collecting food for the Jubilee Center food bank through the month of February in the grocery cart found in the narthex.

Sharing wisdom from a food bank volunteer:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. But it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Bonus: CASH makes it possible for the Food Bank to buy what's missing and buy in bulk.

CHURCH NEWS



Logan Kunc and Trelby Virus



Karen Emal



Jason and Kathy Arrants



Jason, Pr. Elisabeth and Jens Himmelman



Bob and Diane Adams



Trevor Roberts and Melanie Roberts

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OFFICE UPDATES



FLC STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Church Office

office@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

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Pastor Michelle Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

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Pastor Elisabeth Himmelman

Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Young Adults

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Administrative Assistant

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Bookkeeper

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Worship Music Coordinator

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Adam Eilers

Maintenance Coordinator

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Judy O'Donnell

Preschool Director

judyodonnell@firstlutheran Kearney.org



DECEMBER FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	NOV 2020	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 81,833	\$ 346,242	\$ 376,112
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (56,056)	\$ (397,582)	\$ (384,176)

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

Facilities Budget:	DEC. 2020	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 7,553	\$ 49,284	\$ 52,751
Expenditures	\$ (6,360)	\$ (18,536)	\$ (17,607)

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!

Tax Statements have been mailed. Please check your mailbox and keep them with your tax documents. Thank you!

COUNCIL UPDATE

Dear First Lutheran Friends,

Everything we have sacrificed this past year will never compare to the ultimate sacrifice God made for us. We must remember God has a plan for us, and that moving forward, and not looking back, will provide us with continued opportunities to adapt, learn, and grow.

Even though COVID is still with us, we are back to worshipping together in person. The children are back to Sunday School and Confirmation; musicians are practicing; meetings can be face to face and not required to be via Zoom. And we are welcoming new members to our church family this month. Yes, we still have certain protocols; but all are true blessings in a time of uncertainty. There is a light at the end of the tunnel! COVID vaccines are out and already being given. Please continue to pray that God's will be done, and everyone stays safe and healthy.

The church council, pastors and other church committees are all working to keep our congregation safe yet engaged. The future of First Lutheran Church is full of possibility, and it is ours to create. I am asking you to reflect and to pray about how **you** can make a positive contribution to the future of First Lutheran Church.

In Him,

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

FEBRUARY 7

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ISAIAH 40:21-31; PSALM 147:1-11,20c; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23; MARK 1:29-39

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

FEBRUARY 14

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

2 KINGS 2:1-12; PSALM 50:1-6; 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6; MARK 9:2-9

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

FEBRUARY 21

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 9:8-17; PSALM 25:1-10; 1 PETER 3:18-22; MARK 1:9-15

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually; but the new life we are given in baptism is the sake of the whole world.

FEBRUARY 28

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16; PSALM 22:23-31; ROMANS 4:13-25; MARK 8:31-38

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.



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**First Lutheran
Church –
Kearney**



Sign up for
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updates: Send
request to:

office@firstlutherankearney.org



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Broadcast:
**Sundays 8:45 AM
– KXPN 1460 AM**



LIVE
Webstream
Broadcast:
**Sundays 8:45
AM & 11:00 AM
www.firstlutherankearney.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 tbricker4@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 (tbricker4@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 February.**

Prayers of peace and comfort for...

The friends and family of the Maevis Bahde on her death.

The friends and family of the Della Wallace on her brother-in-law, Jim Jacob's death.

The family and friends of Brad & Tara Stolcpart and family on the death of Brad's grandfather, Ben Boerger.

The friends and family of Lanny Gerdes on the death of his wife, Cheryl Gerdes.

The friends and family of Dan Roeder on the death of his mother, Roberta Roeder.

The friends and family of Taffe Meredith on the death of her aunt.

The family and friends of Lavern Stuehm on his death.

PRAY – ELCA Prayer Ventures

Prayer Ventures for February

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church. They can be found monthly at: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

- 1** Pray that the Spirit will guide, inspire and shape the Future Church structure being implemented in the churchwide organization to renew our sense of purpose and activate the entire church so that more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.
- 2** *Black History Month* Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors who stand together with us as partners in the gospel, doing God’s work in the world. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide and help our church in its commitment to socioeconomic equity and racial justice and reconciliation.
- 3** Give thanks for our freedom in Jesus Christ and pray that we might use that freedom to proclaim the glory of God and serve our neighbor in obedience to God’s word, will and ways.
- 4** Pray for the children, youth and family ministry leaders of our church participating in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, “Holding Loosely.” Pray that they will grow and be strengthened for ministry through this time of spiritual renewal, continuing education, networking and mutual support.
- 5** Pray for ELCA Global Mission and for our ministry of accompaniment with churches, leaders, institutions and companion agencies in Asia and the Pacific region as we work together to grow the church, share the gospel, equip leaders, serve the needs of communities, address issues of development and justice, and assist with disaster preparedness and relief.
- 6** Ask God to help us listen to each other with respect and to address and heal the political and ideological divisions that discourage us from treating one another with love and concern as neighbors and siblings in Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us and lead us in the work we must do together for the well-being of our communities, nation and neighbors in need.
- 7** Illness, oppression, desperation and spiritual darkness are no match for the healing and redemptive power of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior. Praise God!
- 8** Pray for all those who experience food insecurity across our nation and around the world. Ask God to help us envision how we can work together to bring relief and hope and to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.
- 9** Give thanks to God for people of all ages, cultures, races, life experiences and perspectives who are new to the ELCA. Pray that, as siblings in Christ, we will nurture and equip one another for participating in God’s work in the world.
- 10** Give thanks and praise to God for God’s abundant love, which “heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.”
- 11** Pray for our outdoor ministry organizations and their leaders as they continue to discern and plan for adapting their ministries during the pandemic — especially as they envision what this summer might bring.
- 12** Thank God for our special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.
- 13** When have you felt proud, boastful or self-congratulatory for your ministry, witness or service to others? Ask God to forgive you and to refocus your attention on the good news and blessings of grace given to us through Jesus Christ, which we are called to share without bias, hesitation or expectation of recognition or reward.

PRAY – ELCA Prayer Ventures

- 14** We are not much different from Peter, James or John, who were unsure what they were witnessing when God's glory shined brightly in Jesus during his transfiguration. Pray for patience and for faith in God's promise, that we, too, will someday experience glory and joy in the kingdom of heaven.
- 15** Pray for our new U.S. president, vice president and members of Congress, that they will find strength, support and unity for their difficult work of serving a diverse nation. Ask the Spirit to help us guide, shape and embolden our culture and nation so that we practice justice, care for our neighbors in need, strive for truth and support our global neighbors.
- 16** Pray that when people witness our actions and hear our words, they will see the light of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ in us and will be moved to believe in God's love, forgiveness and actions in the world today.
- 17** *Ash Wednesday* Someone tracing the sign of the cross on our forehead with ash speaks to our need for physical reassurance that God has done something special and mysterious in the world through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Speak to God about what this smudge of ash — the cross — means to you and says to people who notice it on your forehead.
- 18** Ask the Spirit to teach us humility and to remind us that God made us to care for one another, love one another, be generous with what we have and participate in God's good, reconciling work in the world.
- 19** Pray for families, caregivers and friends who cannot be physically present with hospitalized loved ones. Pray that we will support and comfort them through their time of separation and worry and reassure them of God's very real presence and love.
- 20** God knows our complexities, vulnerabilities and shortcomings yet still considers us with the wisdom of a fair and merciful judge. With a deep sigh of relief, lift up thanks and praise to God!
- 21** Renewed, claimed and sent forth through the word and the waters of baptism, we pray that our life in the Spirit will help us resist temptations that draw us away from God and God's ways and will keep us focused on our baptismal journey of faith, learning, service and sharing the good news.
- 22** Give thanks for everyone involved in the extensive effort to vaccinate people against COVID- 19 even as we work to prevent its spread and treat those who are ill. Pray that the hope and the emotional, spiritual and physical stamina of these workers will be sustained for the long haul.
- 23** Let our prayers and yearnings echo those of the psalmist who wrote, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation."
- 24** Pray that throughout Lent we will reflect on our faith, lives and endeavors with honesty and humility while trusting in God's grace to restore our spirit and to reassure us that we will always be disciples of Christ and loved children of God.
- 25** Remember in prayer the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. Give thanks and pray for women who respond to God's call to serve as deaconesses and who use their passions, spiritual gifts and education to serve in a wide variety of roles and ministry settings worldwide.
- 26** Praise God for being patient and loving toward us and for saving us in our desperation and darkness through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 27** Pray for the ELCA Young Adult Ministry's work with young adults ages 18 to 30 and for leaders who facilitate young adult ministry in their communities of faith. Pray that young adults will find places in our communities of faith where they belong and ministries both at home and abroad where they can grow in faith, discern and use their unique gifts and passions, and engage in acts of service, justice and peace in the world.
- 28** We cannot fully comprehend God's ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. Pray daily to be alert and receptive to what God is revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.



I want to thank my First Lutheran family for the wonderful Cheer bag I received for Christmas. I really enjoyed it and hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. God bless you all! Della Wallace

Thank you for First Lutheran Church ladies for the Christmas Santa bag with all of the goodies. May God Bless you. Doris Maurer

Your amazing gift put the "Merry" in my Christmas I had so much fun unpacking it all. They were all useful and fun items. Thanks again for the nice gift. Blessings in the New Year. Lu Krueger

Thank you for the care package. It was a nice surprise and very much appreciated. God Bless, Ellen Epp

Thanks ever so much for the bag of cheer and goodies and for remembering me. Mardella Nilsen

Thank you so much for the lovely supportive card during this holiday season. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. I am eagerly waiting for the time all activities at church can be in person. Merry Christmas! Love, Bernadene Johnson

Thank you for your generosity as we continue to discern God's invitation for renewed ministry with the UNK community. In gratitude, Pastor Elisabeth

We feel so blessed to receive one of the heart felt donation bags. It was a truly cheer package. We thank everyone who played a part in this. First Lutheran is a "Church Family". Daryl & Gena Rodgers



Congratulations to our February Volunteers of the Month: The Caring and Sharing Ministry

This ministry began several years ago as a stirring of the Holy Spirit that began during a Seeking the Spirit Within group here at First. Cheryl Gerdes and Pat Anderson felt the Spirit move to start a group that took food to families who are having a loved one recently released from the hospital, had a new baby, lost a loved one, and other major life changes. These ladies contact other members of the church to see if they would be interested in providing the meal and coordinate the meeting date and time with the recipient of the meal. Cheryl and Pat would reach out to other members of First to provide these meals.

We are so thankful for the Spirit moving in Cheryl and Pat to start such a ministry. We are saddened by the death of Cheryl, and we wanted to honor her memory by telling you about this ministry. We give thanks for Cheryl's time and talents as she helped so many throughout the years. We give thanks for Pat who will continue the ministry. We are thankful and appreciate your service to all who have participated in this wonderful program.

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: love one another, just as I have loved you, you should love each other." (John 13:34)

WOMEN of the ELCA

Happy February Everyone,

The challenges we faced over the holidays and past few months are a good reason to have a strong faith and continue to pray. **Congratulations** to **Pearl Baumgartner**, she turned **100** in January and she always inspires the people she is around with her smile and positive attitude!

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (W.E.L.C.A.) First Lutheran Church Board cancelled the Zoom meeting on January 4, 2021, and will have the next meeting on March 1, 2021.

Thank you to all those who helped put together and deliver Christmas packages from First Lutheran Church to homebound, nursing homes, assisted living facilities. We received a lot of positive comments about them and everyone enjoyed their special surprises.

A feature we are wanting to start this month is highlights of what the WELCA Circles are doing. Chairs are requested to send in their mission work for future articles. Karen Foster, Chairman of Gloria Circle, is willing to share the projects completed for their mission goals. The members had a card shower in the Spring and at Christmas and phone each other to stay in touch (most do not have computer access). Projects completed include: Support of Campus Lutheran and Sister church in Dannebrog – donated cases of paper goods and gave cash donations. Donations of food, clothing and household items were given to Jubilee Center (Note- one couple picks up and delivers food to Jubilee regularly); the Safe Center and Crossroads have also received donations. Members helped with donations to FLC for the various kits for Mission relief projects and quilts.

Upcoming Events for 2021

March 1, 2021 – First Lutheran Church W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. with contact information being sent out closer to date.

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 to 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,

“Decision fatigue.” “I’ll send you a Zoom link.” “I’m too tired to...”

These are phrases I find myself saying A LOT throughout this pandemic. And while there is great hope in Covid vaccine’s availability, I still find myself exhausted.

Perhaps it’s the pressure I put on myself to find my footing in my first call.

Perhaps it’s the guilt I feel for moving my family to a new place and having Covid three months later and two months later to still be dealing with frustrating side effects.

Perhaps it’s trying to make a youth and campus ministry plan when everything I’ve known about gathering these populations in person has to be adapted or scrapped.

I admit it probably has a lot to do with my own Facebook doom-scrolling, too.

So where is the Good News?

The good news is that God is a God of new life. Of hope that isn’t fleeting and of truth that is cross-shaped. God is our refuge, our only foundation.

God is giver of all hope and love. God is creator, redeemer, sustainer of all.

David writes in Psalm 62, “for God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.”

The words of this Psalm don’t make the pressure or guilt go away but remind me – reminds us – that what we are called to as followers of God is to put every ounce of hope in God. Not in human promises or half-truths.

Our refuge is in God – and God’s love and grace is made real and tangible right there in the face of our neighbor across the street and across the globe. In response to God’s love and grace, we too are a refuge and consolation to one another.

I don’t offer these words as platitude or a trite fix-it to the complexity around us, but as reassurance of our foundation of all truth and hope in God.

In hope,
Pastor Elisabeth

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH PAGE

Hello, February!

Wednesdays 3, 10, 24 Youth Group @ 7pm

Sundays 14, 21, & 28 FLY Bible Study @ 9:55am

Wednesday 17 Ash Wednesday! No FLY! Come to worship!

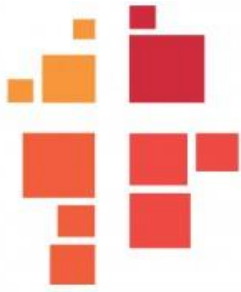


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CAMPUS LUTHERAN

February Calendar

Wednesdays

Feb 3, 10, 24

Worship @ 8:15pm, Antelope Room in NSU

and via Livestream:

www.facebook.com/campuslutheran

Wednesday

Feb 17

Ashes to Go @ 11:30am-1pm in NSU

Worship @ 8:15pm, Antelope Room in NSU

and via Livestream:

www.facebook.com/campuslutheran

NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Greetings from PreK!

It is hard to believe that January is gone, and February is here already. It seems we were just celebrating Christmas and now the groundhog will be predicting if spring will be early or winter will hang on.

January was a fun month for us because we learned so much about Arctic animals. From penguins to seals, walrus' to foxes, narwals to hares and many more. January also brought us Backwards Day, Stripe Day, Inside Out Day and of course our annual Teddy Bear Picnic.

We talked about snow and winter weather along with many fun projects to go with that. We talk about germs and the types of germs that causes colds and flu. Progress reports went out and Parent-Teacher conferences were held at the end of the month. We also had Preschool registration during the month. This year it was online and seemed to be a success.

We are starting to fill up the classes, so if you know of anyone looking for preschool for 2021-2022, there are still a few openings so please send them our way. So, until next month take care and God Bless!

Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya

We hope 2021 is going very well you!

They had fun listening to and interacting with two Jan Brett books, "The Mitten" & "Gingerbread Baby". The students got to strengthen their fine motor skills and hand-to-eye coordination with threading yarn into two cardstock pieces shaped as a mitten. They have been learning to glue with a glue bottle tracing on a zig-zag line and writing their name every morning. Those are not the only books we have been reading; but those are a couple well known books!

They have learned what makes objects sink and float. We will plant a seed and learn what seeds need to grow. We will also learn how to classify animals before this month is done. They love these hands-on science lessons!

Next week, we will finish with a lot of winter stories and then it is our parent/teacher conferences. We are so proud of all the growth these little kids are making!

The following week is our Aloha week where we will learn about the Hawaiian Islands and animals that live in the ocean! Our classroom will transform into a tropical place and we will pretend for a week that it is warm outside by wearing summer or tropical clothing! We will make leis, sparkling fish, and make the first letter in their name, by gluing small shells and sand on top of the letter.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner! Tell those family and friends how much they mean to you!

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



FEBRUARY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Congregational Meeting

February 7th at 9:55am
Via ZOOM and in person



Ash Wednesday
5:30pm & 7:00pm

Midweek Lent Services
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Seeking the Spirit Within HOPE IN THE WILDERNESS

ONLINE Winter Retreat
February 20, 2021
9:00am-4:00pm

Cost: \$35

Find out more and register:
<https://stswinterretreat.weebly.com>



Wednesdays for Faith
Topics
3, 10, 24
@7pm

Sundays for Bible Study
14, 21, 28
@9:55am

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RECEIVING
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SHARING
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING
IN CHRIST



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3315 G Avenue - Kearney, Nebraska 68847

FEBRUARY 2021

Current calendar can be found on our website:

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

PHONE: 308-237-5544 WEB: www.firstlutherankearney.org

Office Hours: 8:30 – 4pm Monday – Friday