

# THE MESSENGER

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

## Where We Were...Where We Have Been...Where We Are Going...Where We Hope to Be

Our own families; our church family; our community; our country; our world. In each of these arenas, we have been significantly and negatively impacted by COVID-19 and its ramifications over the course of the past twelve and a half months. March 13, 2020 was the last day KPS held in-class sessions until the start of the 2020-2021 school year five months later. The weekend of March 21/22, 2020 was the last time we offered in-person Saturday evening/Sunday morning worship services. For Holy Week and Easter Sunday 2020 our worship services were attended in-person by less than ten people (pastors, an organist, a few people staffing the booth, and a small handful of singers) whereas we normally would welcome well over 1,000 into our sanctuary at these worship services. In both the Spring and the Fall of 2020, we had to suspend all in-person church gatherings be they on weekdays or weekends. All of us can add multiple, distressing memories and instances where our normal patterns of living went quite awry because of COVID 19, especially as we remember where we were for much of 2020.

Since mid-January 2021, we have been able to add more “normal” routines to our life together at First Lutheran including:

- In-person Sunday morning and mid-week Lenten services.
- Sunday School, Confirmation, FLY classes.
- Choir rehearsals and offerings.
- In-person meetings.

At the same time, we have practiced safety precautions such as contact tracing lists, mask requirements, and social distancing limitations.

Beginning on April 1, we seek to take another step forward as the Two Rivers Risk Dial remains in the Moderate range and the number of people who have been vaccinated continues on the upswing. Hence, our hard-working Congregation Council has decided that during worship services in April (including Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday) there will be open seating in the sanctuary. Likewise, our Pastoral Team has designed modified ways to offer continuous Holy Communion at these services. While people who attend worship services will still need to wear masks and be asked to be aware to social distance in their choice of seats, they will not need to be checked in or seated by our ushers.

So where do we hope to be by some time in the summer or fall months?

- A return to 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening worship services.
- In-person Vacation Bible School.
- Worship in the park and congregation picnic.
- Expanded liturgy.
- Resumption of Feeding the Flock meals on Wednesday evenings.
- Sunday morning coffee hour
- God's Work-Our Hands Sunday projects.
- Expanded in-person events.
- Full choir rehearsals and worship offerings.

(continued on pg. 2)

## A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



## Pastor's Message Continued...

As the Center for Disease Control regularly reminds us, in some areas and practices, we may well need to adopt “new normal” practices as strains and facets of COVID will not suddenly disappear as if nothing had ever happened. Caution and the well-being of others will be our ongoing standards which will continue to guide us and our decisions as we seek gradually to move to where we hope to be in our life together at First Lutheran Church.

Pastor Rick

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Prayer Ventures for April can be found:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

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.



<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

**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:45am and 11:00am**  
**Worship Services**



**Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Continuous Holy Communion  
5:30pm and 7:00pm  
First Communion at both  
services

**Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
6:30pm

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**Resurrection of our Lord**  
**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00am “Son”-Rise Service with Communion**  
**(northwest parking lot)**

**8:45am and 11:00am**  
**In the Sanctuary with Continuous Communion**

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# CARING FOR OURSELVES WHILE HELPING OTHERS

## ADULT FORUM ON STRESS AND WELL-BEING

On **Sunday April 18**, Derek Schweitzer will be conducting an adult forum in between services (starting at **9:50am** in Centennial Hall). The topic will cover the social and emotional well-being of individuals, families and congregations during a pandemic.

Mr. Schweitzer is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is a member of our congregation. He will be presenting on the cognitive behavioral therapy model and how this applies to surviving a pandemic. Mr. Schweitzer will be highlighting areas such as the pitfalls of cognitive distortions and the utilization of faith, hope, boundaries, coping skills and using a Christ-centered lens in combating the everyday life of a pandemic. This Adult Forum is sponsored by our Mission Outreach Team.

## HABITAT BUILDING

**The Habitat Build Season will begin** on April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday after Easter. Currently, we have two families ready to begin their adventure. Two foundations were prepared last fall and the stud walls are being constructed in the warehouse. As we begin there will be limited number of people allowed on the site. Morning coffee and devotions will be held but no lunches at this time. We are hoping that as more people are vaccinated our build site will be open to volunteers. Prayers for the safety of the Build Crew and the homebuilders and their support people as well as the Habitat Board are always welcome. Please know that First Lutheran Church is well represented on the Build Crew. **Many thanks go to all of you** who have made donations through *Give Where You Live* and the *Carpenter's Club* (see the bulletin board by the elevator for samples of donations.)

## KEARNEY JUBILEE CENTER

For more than 20 years the Kearney Jubilee Center has devoted its energy to passionately advocate for the hungry, needy and under-represented members of our community. There are many ways to help, **Volunteer** at the Thrift Store. **Donate** items to the Donation Center.

**Items currently needed for donations are:** Pots & Pans; Dish sets; Towels – hand towels and wash cloths; Silverware; Bed sheet sets; Small appliances, such as blenders, toasters, coffee pots, etc.; Baby clothes – newborn up to size 14; T-shirts; Hoodies or sweatshirts; Spring seasonal items; Knick knacks; Men's jeans; Household items.

**Items that we cannot accept are:**

- Furniture & Large appliances

**New Location: 1920 Central Ave (308) 234-3880**

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking individuals who would be willing to be nominated and to serve on the following Congregational committees:

- Congregational Council
  - 3 members to be elected at June 2021 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 3 years (persons elected are eligible to serve 2 terms)
- Preschool Board
  - 3 members to be elected at June 2021 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 3 years (persons elected are eligible to serve 2 terms)
- Endowment Committee
  - 1 member to be elected at June 2021 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 3 years (persons elected are eligible to serve 2 terms)
- Nominating Committee
  - 3 members to be elected at June 2021 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 2 years (persons elected are not eligible to serve a consecutive term)

We ask all members of First Lutheran to prayerfully consider this opportunity to be a part of the leadership for our church. More information on the specific role of each of these committees can be found on the website at [firstlutheran Kearney.org/leadership-ministry-teams](http://firstlutheran Kearney.org/leadership-ministry-teams).

You may nominate yourself or any other church member by providing a name and contact phone number to anyone on the Nominating Committee. Deadline for submissions of nominations is Monday, May 10, 2021. We are also available to address any questions you may have.

Serving for Christ,  
Marilyn Lammers, co-chair  
Kim Schipporeit, co-chair  
Laura Love  
Paula Peterson  
Ken Tracy  
Cindy Wessels



# 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

martibroockmeier@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

## FEBRUARY FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	FEB. 2021	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 56,014	\$ 481,889	\$ 488,655
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (72,427)	\$ (524,666)	\$ (511,017)

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

Facilities Budget:	FEB. 2021	YTD '20-'21	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 6,660	\$ 61,759	\$ 64,006
Expenditures	\$ (2,269)	\$ (21,610)	\$ (23,553)

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!

**Have you moved or has your phone number recently changed? Please help us keep the office up to date with your information by either calling or emailing Kandy. Thank you for continued support!**

# COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from the Council,

We continue to watch the COVID situation and follow the guidelines set out by the CDC and Two Rivers Health Department. We are seeing protocols loosen somewhat, and we are planning to continue providing in-person and online services to keep our congregation safe. It has been great seeing members we haven't seen in over a year back to church.

We will have many opportunities to worship and celebrate together during Holy Week. We will continue to require masks and social distancing as much as possible; but we will not be requiring members/guests to sign in at the door. Seating will be more open with ushers available to assist as needed. We will have overflow seating and a live stream of the services available in Centennial Hall and Fellowship Hall. Maundy Thursday services will include first communion for those students who completed the necessary classwork and flow through communion for the remainder of the congregation. We even have a couple baptisms scheduled on Maundy Thursday. We will have Good Friday service and three Easter Sunday services with communion.

The remaining services for the month of April will continue to follow the same plan as Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services, with more open seating, the wearing of masks, social distancing as much as possible, and flow through communion.

We are excited to announce that First Lutheran Church will be a Virtual Telehealth Services provider for Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. Many people are currently struggling with mental health issues due to COVID or other personal reasons, and cannot afford or do not live close to a counselor or mental health care provider. We have the opportunity to help those in need of services connect with a provider through online technology. More information will be available as the program gets up and running.

Marilyn Lammers and Kim Schipporeit are co-chairing the Nominating Committee and are currently looking for members interested in serving on the Church Council, Endowment Committee, Preschool Board, and Nominating Committee. Please consider putting your name on the ballot for election during our Congregational Meeting in June. Serving First Lutheran Church is a blessing and a great way to utilize the gifts God has given you. More information can be seen in this issue of the Messenger.

Thank you to everyone for your continued grace and support.

Your Church Council

Romans 8:28-29 "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them".



## 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

**APRIL 4, 2021**

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD:  
EASTER DAY

ACTS 10:10-34-43; PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24; 1  
CORINTHIANS 15:1-11; MARK 16:1-8

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

**APRIL 11, 2021**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:32-35; PSALM 133; 1 JOHN 1-22;  
JOHN 20:19-31

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

**APRIL 18, 2021**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 3:12-19; PSALM 4; 1 JOHN 3:1-7; LUKE 24:36B-48

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

**APRIL 25, 2021**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:5-12; PSALM 23; 1 JOHN 3:16-24; JOHN 10:11-18

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.



“LIKE” us on  
Facebook:  
**First Lutheran  
Church –  
Kearney**



Sign up for  
weekly E-mail  
updates: Send  
request to:

[office@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:office@firstlutherankearney.org)



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



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

## BODY PRAYER FOR APRIL

In the midst of the COVID pandemic and a blustery Nebraska spring, it is not always easy for us to be physically active. So, our Mission Outreach team would like to share regularly a link 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 April. It is based on the prayer practices from the Order of Julian of Norwich. Just enter: How to pray the body prayer from the Order of Julian of Norwich" or click on the weblink below

[https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video;\\_ylt=A0geJaKAiFtgLdAAoRXNyoA;\\_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZANDMTYxMF8xBHNIYwNwaXZz?p=Body+Prayer&fr2=piv-web&fr=mcafee#id=1&vid=ccd7a4ece804f5dfee375da6e588d44e&action=view](https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video;_ylt=A0geJaKAiFtgLdAAoRXNyoA;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZANDMTYxMF8xBHNIYwNwaXZz?p=Body+Prayer&fr2=piv-web&fr=mcafee#id=1&vid=ccd7a4ece804f5dfee375da6e588d44e&action=view)

## Prayers of peace and comfort for...

The family and friends of Jerrod Livengood (Debbie & Larry Steinbrecher's nephew).

The family and friends of Larry Hettler (family friend of Jen Puls).

The family and friends of Janiene Rewerts, Randy Hinrichs, and Pam Epley, on the death of their uncle, John Gishweller.



Did you know that you can sponsor a Church Radio Broadcast? The cost is \$165. The Sunday Worship Radio Broadcast is solely sponsored by you our members. People from all over central Nebraska tune in to the 8:45 a.m. broadcast to listen. Maybe they are searching for a second opinion on a theological question or just maybe they are being fed by what they hear in God's Word.

Lately sponsorships have been sparse. We need your support! If you would like to sponsor a Sunday near an important anniversary or birthday or event, please contact the church office (237-5544). We will gladly accept whatever gift you would graciously give.



Are you receiving all of the up to date newsletters and events that First Lutheran Church has to offer? Make sure to sign up for our newsletter and constant contact. If you are not sure if you have done this or would like to be participate, please contact Kandy at the office and she would be happy to assist you.



## **Congratulations to our April Volunteers of the Month: The Snow Removal Team!**

April's Volunteers of the Month are the dedicated snow removal team which has been quite busy recently! This group of loyal volunteers are those brave souls that fight the cold, wintery weather so that others can safely attend church services.

Currently serving on this important team: John Love, Duane Rohla, Mark Kottmeyer, Rod Bredenkamp, Adam Eilers and Dana Ernst. This group of men have been volunteering to remove snow at the church for years, and we couldn't be more blessed.

Here is an example of what happens... The forecast is predicting 3 to 5 inches of snow on a Sunday morning. John Love would send a text to the others in the group letting them know when he is planning on being at the church to begin working. The other men in the group would then bring their own personal equipment from home to come to the church and help shovel, use their personal snow-blowers, etc. John Love drives his four-wheeler with a blade to clear all of the sidewalks, so it is easier for our members to get back and forth to their cars and into the church without being covered in snow or tracking snow in the church.

Please join us in sending a warm "Thank You" to all of our special snow angels, both past and present. You make coming out in the icy cold bitter weather a little easier and safer for all of us. God Bless you all!

# WOMEN of the ELCA

He is Risen - Easter is here and we celebrate Resurrection Sunday after 40 days of Lent prayers and penance. Let us all be joyful for God's gift of his son Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin and hope of eternal life. Have a Blessed Easter!

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (W.E.L.C.A.) First Lutheran Church (FLC) Board held a Zoom meeting on March 1, 2021. The following information was shared:

The WELCA Board is looking for input from Circle members on ideas for First Lutheran Church (FLC) Spring Fling. One idea was to have a picnic in the park in June or July to comply with COVID 19 restrictions. Share ideas with Lil or Judy - contact info listed to the right of page.

Election of officers President and Vice President are open and needed to continue W.E.L.C.A. at First Lutheran. Circle Chairs will present a slate of officers to Board. Pray for leaders to help us.

Theress Bricker reported five quilters met March 1<sup>st</sup> and need donations of flat sheets and backing material for quilts. The quilters have completed 20 quilts. 35 Backpacks completed.

Deborah Circle feature submitted by Beth Jochen - W.E.L.C.A. mission goals and projects: Deborah Circle meets 7:00 pm at First Lutheran Church on the third Monday of the month. In addition to Bible study and a brief business meeting, we promote the gathering of materials for Lutheran World Relief kits (especially baby care kits) and choosing an annual gift from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. Betty Young is the LWR quilt coordinator and Alicia Tracy the lead for baby care kits. Our members are always ready to provide food for WELCA activities and other church gatherings. New members are welcome. To join Deborah Circle contact Mission Community Chair, Alicia Tracy at (308) 234-4793; Deb Schauer or Ellen Epp, Co-Chairs (listed right side of page), or any Deborah Circle member.

## Upcoming Events for 2021

The March 27<sup>th</sup> Southern Prairie meeting was switched to Zoom.

**The listings are subject to change!**

### NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization

ALL S.W.O. ACTIVITIES are being rescheduled -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.

June 7, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. General Meeting and Elections for WELCA Board.

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



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

Dear First Lutheran,

Wednesdays have become a day full of rituals for me, since they are so busy both at First Lutheran and at Campus Lutheran.

After my family gets off to school and work in the morning, I pour my first cup of coffee and read the Moravian Daily Scriptures, write down something I'm lamenting and something I'm grateful for as a form of prayer in the Notes App on my phone, and dive into email and list-making for the day.

At the end of the day, after dropping Jens off at bell practice and in preparation for the evening ahead, I pick up a Vanilla Sweet Cream Cold Brew with 2 shots of espresso from Starbucks. The baristas don't know me by name (yet!), but we always exchange knowing glances when we say "enjoy the rest of your day!"

Admittedly, my rituals involve caffeine – and with it comes a moment of stillness coupled with a perk in my step that grounds me in my call to serve God and serve this community.

I'm always up for coffee with you!

In hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth

**fly**  
first lutheran youth:



youth group moments from our  
time together this year!



Ways to reach Pastor Elisabeth – Office phone  
(308) 237-5544

Email address – [ehimmelman@firstlutheran Kearney.org](mailto:ehimmelman@firstlutheran Kearney.org)

Set up a meeting time in the office or on her cell phone  
or at a public meeting place.

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

FLY FUNDRAISER  
**EASTER EGG  
HIDING!**

*FLY will deliver and hide candy-filled  
eggs to your yard the night before  
Easter for your little (and big ones) to  
find Easter morning!*

**SIGN UP BY FRI, APRIL 2  
HIDING: SAT, APRIL 3  
BETWEEN 7:30-9PM**

**25 eggs for \$15 or 50 eggs for \$25**  
Sign up on FLC website or contact  
Pastor Elisabeth

# CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATES

## What's going on at Campus Lutheran?

**Worship** at Campus Lutheran continues on Wednesday nights at 8:15pm in the Nebraskan Student Union with attendance ranging from 1-10. Our service is contemplative, sacramental, and a holy space for lament and joy.

**As the Campus Pastor**, I will be visiting congregations throughout the year to preach, lead adult forums, fundraise, and to make connections through relationships to Campus Lutheran and the value of ELCA Campus Ministry in general. Some Sundays, I will be working on behalf of Campus Lutheran in the region and not present at First Lutheran. My first visit is to Trinity Lutheran in Hildreth on April 11.

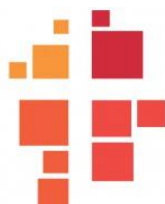
**Leadership at Campus Lutheran** is transitioning models, from a Local Governance Council to a Stewardship Team. This is in an effort to be faithful to my call to First Lutheran and reporting to the FLC Council as my governing body. I began meeting in January with Campus Lutheran's Local Governance Council and Jon Fredericks (Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry - NeLCM Executive Director) to have difficult conversations about change. The final Stewardship Team proposal document was written by Jill Purdy, Pastor Michelle, and myself and presented to the NeLCM State Board in early March. The NeLCM board unanimously endorsed the plan.

The primary purpose of the Stewardship Team will be to steward the finances, relationships, and property of Campus Lutheran. A big job, but an important aspect of fulfilling our mission to invite students into community that bears Christ's name.

**Thank you to the committed volunteers of the Local Governance Council for your service!**

Pastor Michelle Carlson  
Kim Deyo  
Suzette Eppler  
Brian Gnuse (Spirit of Grace Lutheran, Holdrege)  
Alexis Hobbs  
Jill Purdy  
Delvin Schmidt (Bethany Lutheran, Minden)  
Pastor Nancy Cole (retired)

In hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth



CAMPUS  
LUTHERAN

# WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

## FROG is BACK!

April 7, 14, 21, 28  
Begins @ 6:30pm in  
the Sanctuary

### Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will start on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, in the Conference Room. These studies are led by Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein. This group does more than just talk about the Bible; they really get into the Bible. They talk about what the Bible says and what it says to us. We welcome you all to attend.

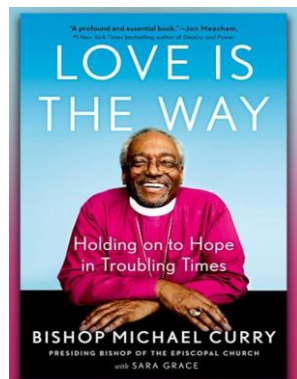
## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Bowling (Must turn in Permission slip by April 2<sup>nd</sup> to Jen Puls at FLC Office)

April 14<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Confirmation 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Last night of Confirmation 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm



### Reading with Pastor Michelle

New Book: Beginning  
Wednesday,  
April 14<sup>th</sup> at  
7:21pm

## 2021 Children's Choir Singing Dates

\*Any ?'s please call or text Amanda at 240-0872

The children will be singing at the following services:

**Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 am service**

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the 8:45 am service**

(No need to come early and Amanda will call you forward when it is time to sing.)



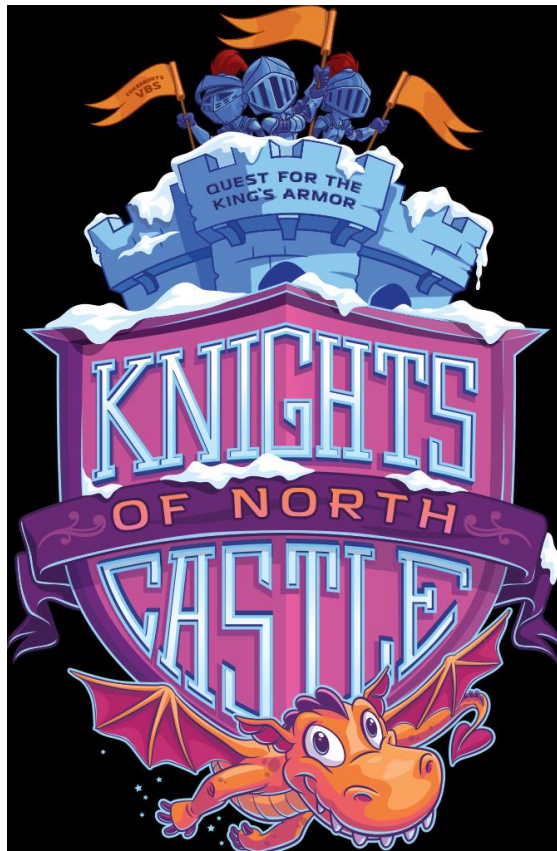


# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## JULY 12-15

***Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor***, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to “armor up” and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever.



# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Happy Spring!

Yes, Spring is here finally and Easter is just around the corner. We blinked and March was gone. We are winding down another school year and as we do, I am so thankful that we were able to stay in class the whole year. Last year at this time we were not so lucky.

March was a very full month for us which started with Dr. Seuss Week. We brought in our favorite Dr. Seuss books and charted to find out the popular ones. The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham tied in both classes.

We have been learning sight words and as of this moment, we have 35 sight words and should know 50 by graduation time. The class is learning some math and we have talked about money and counting it.

Next, we started to talk about how things grow. I was able to incorporate the two parables of the mustard seed and the sower seeds. Each day we read one story from our classroom Bible, and those 2 stories happened to fall perfectly with our lesson. God is so great! The children really enjoy listening to the stories and by the end of the year we will have read the whole children's Bible. I have been doing this every year since I started, it is so important for the children to hear the "Good News." We then started beans and now we watch them grow!

Spring break was the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>; but before we left for the break, the Leprechaun paid us a visit, leaving some green footprints and a few small messes before he left.

Poison Prevention Week was March 22-25 and the class learned how to stay safe by watching a video along with materials, such as coloring books from the Nebraska Poison Prevention Center.

We ended the month with the theme "All About Rainbow" and the children learned how the rainbow is formed. We did some experiments and many rainbow projects.

As I close this article we would like to wish everyone a very joyous and blessed Easter..... He Has Risen Hallelujah!

Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya

Spring is Here! Hurray!

We Have been learning about how to take care of our teeth. We also began to explore that there are poisons that we don't touch, smell or taste.

Our class had fun making Gak (a.k.a. slime), sort things by Gas, solid, and liquid and do a science project to make Gas! Grandparents received a Gift that we made! It would have been our Grandparent's Day, but maybe next year!

This next week, after spring break, we are having St. Patrick's Day fun and learning about magnets. We will have a wee leprechaun play tricks in our classroom. He or she will leave small green footprints in our room. They took our gold; but left it outside so the kids had fun picking up all the gold. We have so much fun here!

The following week we will talk a lot about being blessed instead of being lucky since so many of March books talk about luck. Our bulletin board in the hall will have the student's blessings. They cut out the raindrop and we wrote the words that say what they are blessed with. Come check it out!

By the time you read this, we will have just got done talking about Jesus. We will learn how he died for us so that we may have eternal life. We will make a special picture of Jesus and cross to remember what he did for us. They will also get to participant in an Easter egg hunt. Happy Easter to all!

Have a wonderful April!  
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Lora



# APRIL (and May) CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



## Holy Week Services Schedule

**Maundy Thursday, April 1st**  
with First Communion  
5:30pm and 7:00pm

**Good Friday, April 2nd**  
6:30pm

**Easter Day, April 4th**  
“Son”rise Service Under the Sunrise  
at 7:00am in the North Parking Lot

8:45am and 11:00am in the Sanctuary,  
Online and Radio for 8:45am



**FLC Preschool Fundraiser**  
**Monday April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**5pm-8pm**

**RUNZA North will donate 10% of**  
**the sales between**  
**5pm – 8 pm to First Lutheran**  
**Church Preschool!**

## FROG

April 7, 14, 21, 28  
Begins @ 6:30pm in  
the Sanctuary

## New Member Classes

**9:55am-10:50am**

## Fellowship Hall

April 11<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, May 2, 2021 – New Members  
received at both services

## LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>

Thank you, Sunday  
School Teachers!

## Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday, May 2, 2021  
8:45am

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Senior Recognition  
Service.

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

APRIL 2021

3315 G Avenue - Kearney, Nebraska 68847



**The church calendar, weekly bulletins, and  
prayer lists can be found on our website:**

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

**PHONE: 308-237-5544      WEB: [www.firstlutherankearney.org](http://www.firstlutherankearney.org)  
Office Hours: 8:30 – 4pm Monday – Friday**