

THE MESSENGER

Jesus, the NFL Draft, Confirmation

What do these three have in common? At first glance, probably nothing; although this year the NFL Draft and our Confirmation service (or Affirmation of Baptism service) at First Lutheran occur in four consecutive days (Thursday April 29 through Sunday May 2). Since the end of the Super Bowl on February 7, sports blogs, podcasts, call-in radio shows, TV programs, online sport news, etc. have focused on the NFL Draft. Over the years, the NFL draft has gone from a relatively obscure occurrence conducted over the phone to a mega million-dollar extravaganza watched by over 47 million people on TV over three days (with millions more checking-in online) and with an in-person attendance of over half a million people. This year 259 of the very best eligible college football players will be chosen by one of the 32 NFL teams with the Jacksonville Jaguars (last year's worst team) having the first selection and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (the reigning Super Bowl champions) choosing with the very last pick. Any given football player's abilities, experience, talent, and potential mean everything and have already been evaluated and ranked by each and every NFL team. Almost every single facet of the NFL draft (from pro-workout days to mock drafts to trades to Bill Belichick's dog) has been or will be covered by some outlet of the media. After a Presidential election, the NFL draft is the ultimate choosing event in our country.

So how does Jesus connect to the spectacle which has become the annual NFL draft? Jesus has told his disciples (both first century and twenty-first century disciples!): "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (John 15:16) Just as a college player doesn't get to choose which team drafts them with what draft pick, we do not choose Jesus. Jesus chooses us. Jesus chooses us by the power of the Holy Spirit through God's Word and the Sacraments. What is very different between Jesus' choosing and the choosing in the NFL draft, however, is ability. NFL teams' draft choices are ultimately determined by ability. If a football player does not have a certain pre-judged level of ability, they won't be chosen on draft day. But not so with Jesus. Jesus did not choose us because of the fantastic abilities we possess or showcase. In fact, in many ways Jesus has chosen us despite our very human, frail abilities. There were no tryouts, workouts, or game film which helped determine our being chosen by Jesus. Simply put, Jesus chooses us because Jesus is in God's salvation business.

How does this relate to Confirmation? By and large, a person does choose to be Confirmed; to make public affirmation of their baptism. On the one hand, in our Lutheran tradition Confirmation is not a Sacrament. A person's salvation is not determined by their choosing to be confirmed or not to be confirmed. On the other hand, Confirmation is indeed a significant event. It is a person's acknowledgment of the Sacrament of Baptism through which Jesus had chosen them. A person's public Confirmation vows help set a course for their discipleship as an adult member of the Church of Jesus Christ. Where that course of discipleship will take them beyond their day of Confirmation, we do not know. But we trust. We trust that Confirmation is not a graduation from discipleship; but a transition into new stages and ventures of discipleship.

(continued on pg. 2)

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

A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



Pastor's Message Continued...

We trust that as Jesus first chose our confirmands, Jesus will continue to be with them, will continue to lead them, and will ultimately bring them into the very salvation Jesus has promised them in their baptism. In that way, all of us, especially our confirmands, have been chosen as first round draft picks.

Pastor Rick

Message from the Co-Lead Pastor	1-2
Announcements	3
Helping Others	4
Office Updates	5
Council Updates	6
Worship Themes and Information	7
Pray	8
Within Our Beloved Community	9
Women of the ELCA	10
Associate Pastor	11-12
Campus Lutheran	13
FLC Celebrations	14
Children's Choir	15
Vacation Bible School	16-17
Preschool	18
Calendar Highlights	19

Prayer Ventures for May 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



LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY

<http://www.nelcm.com/>
(308) 234-1828



<http://www.nlom.org>
402-944-2544

Reading with Pastor Michelle
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00pm
beginning May 5th in North Hall
We are reading
Love is the Way by Bishop Michael Curry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITAL

Good Samaritan Hospital and Kearney Region Medical Center are now allowing visits from the pastors for adult patients with some policy restraints. If you or a family member becomes a patient in either facility and would like a pastoral visit, please let either the Church Office or one of our pastors know. We will seek to arrange a pastoral visit in a timely manner.

COLUMBARIUM

The inside Columbarium is located north of Centennial Hall, and close to the Chapel. We have 15 niches available for purchase. The cost of a niche for one person is \$375.00. This cost includes the vault, canister for ashes, and engraving. With completion of an application, and payment, you are able to choose the location of your niche from the remaining locations. If you have any questions, please call Shirley Smalley at 308-293-4815.



We are looking for volunteers to help serve communion at all of our services. Both men and women are welcome to help serve. You can help as little as one Sunday a month or a few times a month. No experience is needed. If you have questions you can contact either Kandy at the church office or Monie Karschner at karschner@charter.net. Thank you for your support.



HELPING OTHERS



Care and Growth would like to thank all of the Sunday School Teachers who persevered through COVID! We hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to seeing you next fall!

LWR Supply Lists

Need items for the upcoming LWR Supply Kits. Sheets, blankets (even holey ones for patches and lining fabric). Curtains also work well for fillers and backs, and like-new baby items from garage sales can help us put together a variety of Baby Kits. Diapers can be made from cotton t-shirts. Please watch garage sales for the following supplies: Like-new lightweight cotton t-shirts, like-new pant and top sets or sleepers without feet up to 24 months, jackets, sweatshirts with a hood, or a sweater with a baby cap up to 24 months. Receiving blankets or lightweight crocheted or knitted blankets (not larger than 52 inches please) and dark colored hand towels. Thank you for your support and donations!

Mission Outreach News **Habitat for Humanity Update**

The 2021 building season for the Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity has begun. In April, two groups from UNK have worked to help put up walls of the first Habitat house of the year and on other building projects.

The Habitat Building Day for First Lutheran Church is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 26. At this time, groups are being limited to 10 workers and masks will be required. There will be coffee and devotions, but at this time lunch will not be served. We will continue to update everyone on these procedures as June 26 draws nearer.

Kearney Jubilee Center

Looking for ways to help out in the community? You can sign up to volunteer at the Kearney Jubilee Center. They are always needing volunteers to help in the Food Pantry to shelve supplies, to help people get what they need and answer questions. The biggest need is in the warehouse (the building next door to the Jubilee Center) sorting donations. The Jubilee Center has been running garage sales every Saturday to dwindle down the tremendous amounts of items to include: books, picture frames, puzzles, household decorations, cooking items, etc.

They are open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturdays 10 to 4 pm.

Call the Jubilee Center for more information on helping with assistance or volunteering.

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

OFFICE UPDATES



FLC STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Church Office

office@firstlutheranearney.org

Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

rcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

Pastor Michelle Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

mcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

Pastor Elisabeth Himmelman

Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Young Adults

ehimmelman@firstlutheranearney.org

Kandy Bacon

Administrative Assistant

kbacon@firstlutheranearney.org

Marti Brockmeier

Bookkeeper

martibroockmeier@firstlutheranearney.org

Natalie Radcliffe

Worship Music Coordinator

natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org

Adam Eilers

Maintenance Coordinator

aeilers@firstlutheranearney.org

Judy O'Donnell

Preschool Director

judyodonnell@firstlutheranearney.org

MARCH FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	MAR. 2021	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 43,574	\$ 525,462	\$ 547,661
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (53,740)	\$ (578,405)	\$ (566,972)

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

Facilities Budget:	MAR. 2021	YTD '20-'21	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 5,180	\$ 66,939	\$ 70,181
Expenditures	\$ (1,394)	\$ (23,004)	\$ (24,250)

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!

CHURCH FISCAL YEAR-END APPROACHING

May 31st will mark the end of the current fiscal year. Is your pledge current and up-to-date? Now is the time to do that "catch-up" as we complete this year and journey forward. Thank you for participating in all that God is doing among us and helping our ministry!

COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from the Council,

With Spring in the air and many members venturing back to church, we are looking forward to seeing COVID continue to become under control and activities become more normal. For now, we will follow the same plan for services as the month of April, with wearing of masks, social distancing as much as possible, and flow through communion. However, to continue in this way, we need your help. Please consider serving as an usher, communion assistant, or lector, and should you feel called, contact the church office.

We are excited to announce that 16 confirmands will participate in the Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, May 2, 2021. These young people have met the requirements through the teaching of God's word and through service to others. Please pray for their continued faith journey and welcome them as members of First Lutheran Church.

Don't be alarmed if the church doorbell looks different this spring or summer. The Property and Management committee is working with ISS, the company working on our security and fire safety updates, to install a new video doorbell system, which will offer better security for not only the staff, but the preschool, and all members of First Lutheran. We appreciate the continued planning and improvements, throughout the facility, being made by the Property and Management committee.

Remember our mission - *Receiving God's Grace. Sharing God's Love. Uniting in Christ.* First Lutheran Church is a place where we can grow in our relationship with God as well as to serve God and to unite with others. There are so many opportunities at First Lutheran Church. Have you asked yourself what gifts you have been given that will serve and unite with God, the church, and others?

Continued Blessings,
Your Church Council

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4: 10-11



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 AND INFORMATION

MAY 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 8:26-40; PSALM 22:25-31; 1 JOHN 4:7-21; JOHN 15:1-8

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of the abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

MAY 9, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 10:44-48; PSALM 98; 1 JOHN 5:1-6; JOHN 15:9-17

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

MAY 16, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 1; 1 JOHN 5:9-13; JOHN 17:6-19

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. The oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. The oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received; but also await. Come Holy Spirit!

MAY 23, 2021

DAY OF PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1-21; PSALM 104:24-34, 35b; ROMANS 8:22-27; JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it – to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

MAY 30, 2021

THE HOLY TRINITY; FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ISAIAH 6:1-8; PSALM 29; ROMANS 8:12-17; JOHN 3:1-17

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Summer Worship Times Begin Sunday, May 30th

Sunday, May 30th through Sunday,
August 14th:
8:45am and 10:30am



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 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). Requests will be emailed to you for your prayer time.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

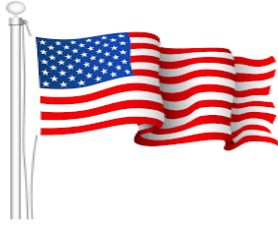
Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Wednesday in the coffee area from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. during the school year. Please join us for knitting, crocheting, conversation, and prayer. If you have any questions, or if you know of someone who might be able to use a Prayer Shawl as a tangible reminder of God’s love and grace during hard times and good times, please call Theress Bricker (308) 233-2469.



Prayers of Peace and Comfort for Denise Scott and family on the death of her husband, Dennis Scott.



WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST



My Fellow Members at First Lutheran Church

I'm sure that many of you know that Troop #139 collects old and tattered American flags to be retired properly. We also accept other flags that are in similar shape too. Our tote is in the northwest area of the Narthex. When our Troop has another retirement ceremony planned, I'll be sure and notify the church office and word of it can be made known. Then our church family at First Lutheran Church, our Chartering Organization, can come and observe and even partake in the ceremony! So, if you or even a neighbor has an old tattered flag, now you know where you bring it to be retired. Thank you again for your support of Troop # 139 and thank you to Mr. Karschner for always folding the flags. Dana Ernst – Committee Chair



Did you know that you can order a rose bush or a door stop stone in memory of someone at First Lutheran Church? The knock out rose bushes are \$39.99 and the door stop stones are \$30.00. It takes about 10 days to get the stones here. You can inscribe the door stone with "In memory of _____" or In Remembrance of _____" If something else is desired, please call Shirley Smalley at (308) 293-4815 with your idea and she can see if it can be done. The roses are planted south of the south kitchen. The stones are now arranged in the circle of stones where the bell tower used to be located (southwest of the roses). Contact Shirley with any questions.



Congratulations to our May Volunteers of the Month:

The Witness and Members Team!

The Witness and Members Team consists of Pam Epley and Lotys Suhr, both co-chairs; Lanny Gerdes; Alberta Panning; Mark Schipporeit; Steve Wolfe; Jen Puls; Miranda Obermeier, council representative; and Pastor Michelle Carlson.

This team is involved in endeavors to reach out to new members, inactive members, and those interested in our church. Our goal is to make all who worship at First Lutheran feel welcome, and to engage with them to connect with the church. This team encourages both new and existing members to become a part of the body of Christ through worship as well as participation in our church ministries.

Witness and Members worked through COVID reaching out to potential new members and helping them through the process of being part of our congregation. On the day we receive new members, each new member is provided with a flower and has their picture taken. In non-COVID times, we have a reception between the services. During COVID, we give them an Eileen's cookie to enjoy at home. A few weeks after they are received, the team takes t-shirts and treats to new members. What a warm welcome to the church family they provided to others!

The group also holds three class sessions twice a year so potential new members can learn more about the Lutheran faith and what First Lutheran Church is all about. This group also comes up with a list of potential members to contact. They also help out with receptions and Fifth Sunday Potlucks. There is a lot of work involved in all of these specific duties, and we want to thank each of them for all of their hard work and dedication.

WOMEN of the ELCA

What a beautiful Easter we celebrated thanks to the Pastors, staff and members contributing to the services preparation. Don't forget April showers bring May flowers for Mother's Day.

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (W.E.L.C.A.) First Lutheran Church Board reminds Circle Chairs of the need for new officers for President and Vice President of W.E.L.C.A. Board. The Circle Chairs were asked to seek members to fill the positions from the Circle meetings or contacts. The Spring event usually held in May will be delayed pending input from Circle members on having a picnic, or alternative ideas. Topic to be discussed at the June 7, 2021, Zoom Board meeting. The July 12th W.E.L.C.A. General Meeting & Elections is scheduled for Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m. (Note time change) no food or drink is allowed.

Lil Larson attended the virtual Southern Prairie Spring Gathering on Saturday, March 27th. Nebraska State President, Sandy Terry reported there has been a reduction in church staff at the Chicago National office necessitated by fewer offering funds being sent from local women's groups. Members are encouraged to contribute as a monthly friend on the E.L.C.A. web site.

October 1-3, 2021 are the dates for the state convention at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Gwen Edwards, NSWO Treasurer, reported last year only one spring gathering was held while six were cancelled due to Covid-19. Betty Kempf of F.L.C. was elected to the Nominating Committee. Pastor Sarah Ruch from Lincoln led the inspiring Bible Study based on - Timothy 4:4-5. The Director of Miriam's Hope in Hastings reported on the activities of that facility. The next Saved to Serve retreat will be held at Camp Carol Joy Holling April 30-May 2. Fleece and other cloth bibs and animal water bottle covers will be made for the children served at the nine Mosaic Centers in Moshi, Tanzania. Lil visited these centers several summers ago, in Tanzania and knows the children have severe drooling problems so, the bibs will help keep the children's clothing clean and dry.

Upcoming Events for 2021

NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization activities from the NEBRASKA Synodical Women's Organization ALL S.W.O. ACTIVITIES are subject to change.

April 30 & May 1 & 2, 2021 - The next Saved to Serve will be at Camp Carol Joy Holling Nebraska S.W.O. to collect Mosaic fidget mats - lodging will be at the camp Carol Joy Holling.

June 7, 2021 - Board meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. – Kearney Library available for use by those not having computer access call Judy Workman to schedule attending.

July 12, 2021 – 7:30 p.m. (note time change) W.E.L.C.A. General Meeting and Elections at F.L.C. Fellowship Hall.

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

Oct. 1-3, 2021 – Nebraska S.W.O. State Convention to be held at Camp Carol Joy Holling



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,

Christ is risen! There is much to celebrate as new life springs forth from the ground and vaccination rates in our community and around the nation are increasing. While we're still wearing masks as per guidance of the CDC, signs of new life continue to pop up everywhere. This month, we especially celebrate new life in the milestone celebration of our graduates! God has created and called them to take their next faithful step in their journey, and if that's not a promise of new life, I don't know what is! Come celebrate with us on May 16th at the 8:45 worship service!

In hope,
Pastor Elisabeth

congrats grads!

We celebrate the high school graduations of:

Aurora Athy
Joshua Bean
Jack Berggren
Charlie Brockmeier
Samson David
Alyssa Eppler
Payton Fehringer

Joseph French
Makenna Henning
Ryanna Jackson
Maci Stokebrand
Maleah Wright
Marissa Wright
Elizabeth Young

College graduation of:

Hope Schwartz, University of Nebraska-Kearney
Grace Lueders, University of Nebraska-Kearney

FIRST LUTHERAN
Church of Kearney

class
of
2021

BLESSING & CELEBRATION OF
GRADUATES:
SUNDAY, MAY 16 @ 8:45AM
WORSHIP SERVICE

Bring your family!
Wear your cap & gown!
Send your senior pic & future plans
(school, work, military, etc.) to
Pastor Elisabeth by 5/9/21
ehimmelman@firstlutheran Kearney.org



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

Email address – 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 SPRING '21 CALENDAR

MAY:

FLY Sunday Bible Study @

9:55am: May 2 & 9

Sunday Bible Study on summer break

May 16-Aug. 8

**High School Graduate
Blessing & Celebration @**

8:45am worship:

Sunday, May 16!

Wear your cap & gown!

**Wednesday night youth
group @ 7pm:**

May 5, 12, & 19

**FLY Summer Celebration:
Progressive Dessert Party
Wednesday, May 26 @ 7-9pm**

CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATES

At Campus Lutheran, the Stewardship Team is hard at work planning for ministry in the upcoming academic year. This poem that has become my centering prayer for who we are as a campus ministry:

“Come, friends.
Come with your grief.
Come with your loss.
Carry all the pieces of your heart
and come sit with us.
Bring your disappointments
and your failures.

Bring your betrayals
and your masks.
We welcome you no matter
where you come from
and what you bring.
Come and join us

at the intersection of
acceptance and forgiveness
Where you will find our
house of love.
Bring your empty cups
and we will have a feast.”
~ *Written by Kamand Kojouri*

As you consider the ways in which you might offer your gifts in our mission to “invite students more deeply into Jesus Christ and the community that bears His name,” there are several options for getting connected more deeply to this ministry. With gratitude for your deep and abiding support of Campus Lutheran and trusting God’s invitation to new life at Campus Lutheran,

Pastor Elisabeth



CAMPUS LUTHERAN

MAKE A GIFT

Simply mail a check to:
Campus Lutheran
2715 9th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845
or online: <https://campuslutheranunk.org/donate>

Organize your small group, Confirmation class, WELCA Circle, or some friends for a few hours or a day to brighten our property! Opportunities range from deep cleaning and light repair work to gardening and painting.

Purchase items for worship, student use, and to keep our building a hospitable space to gather!

- Starbucks, Chic-fil-A, or Subway gift cards to purchase coffee/food for students in the Union
- Dish soap & hand towels
- Toilet paper & paper towels
- Gift cards to local grocery stores for serving meals
- "Forever" postage stamps
- Hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, & Lysol spray
- White & brightly colored card stock

CONTACT US:
Pastor Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman
(308) 234-1828
kearney@nelcm.com
ehimmelman@firstlutheran Kearney.com
campuslutheranunk.org
facebook.com/campuslutheran

a ministry of
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our home.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

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CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021

Dante Christian Cardenas
Luke Daniel Draper
Ethan Jon Eilers
Rydge Adam Jackson
Cayden Charles John
Keeley Jean Krohn
Emily Claire McArthur
Hannah Elizabeth Merz
Derrick Evan Nonhof
Evan Sawyer Slaymaker
Karlye Leigh Turner
April Jean Van Horn
Brooke Ann Van Horn
Grace Ann Weber
Marcus Ryan Weides
Karson Wayne Wright

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2021 Children's Choir Singing Date

*Any ?'s please call or text Amanda at 308-240-0872

The children will be singing at the following services:

Sunday, May 9th at the 8:45 am service

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





***Join us for Knights of North Castle:
Quest for the King's Armor!***

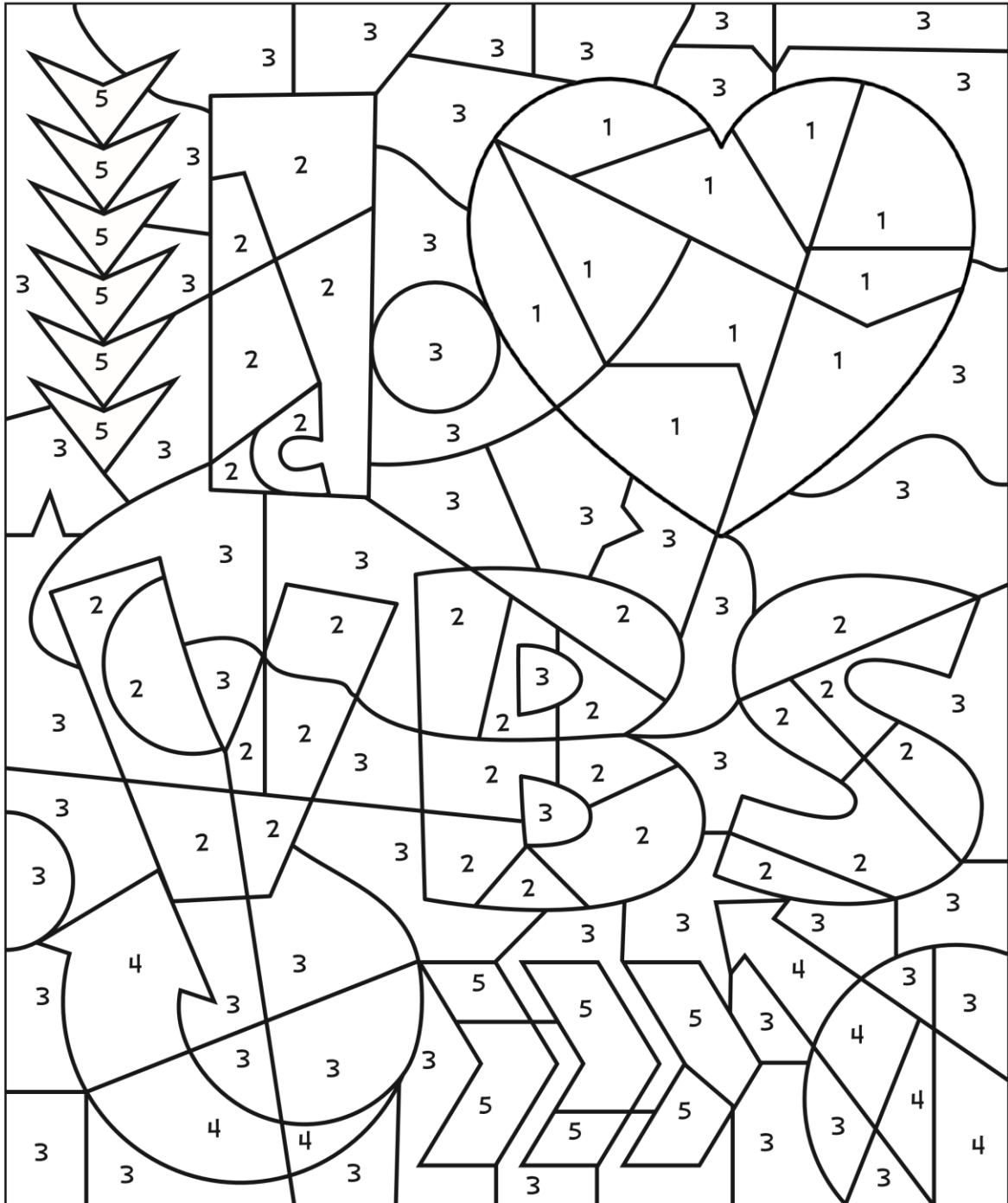
We are looking for volunteers to help with VBS. If you can help out, call the church office or contact Stefani Wegner. We will also be using SignUp Genius for volunteer sign-up!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 12-15



Knights of North Castle • www.cokesburyvbs.com

1=RED • 2=BLUE • 3=YELLOW • 4=ORANGE • 5=GREEN



Join us for Knights of North Castle VBS!

NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Greetings from Pre-K

April started with the celebration of Easter in our classroom. We talked about Holy Week and read about Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday until his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We also continued to talk about the season of Spring and everything that is taking place in in nature.

With Earth Day in April we started to talk about taking care of the earth and how we can help. Worms were introduced to help our classes learn how they help us with composting. The kids really enjoyed this project. We learned about clouds, rain and we planted seeds to grow, yes Spring is in the air! We also took a walk to Dryden Park to celebrate Earth Day!

We continue to add more sight words and have been writing and reading short sentences. The year is quickly coming to an end and we are reviewing all that we have learned. Graduation is planned for Thursday May 20th with a wonderful celebration of their achievements.

We closed the month with Fun on the Farm theme. They learned about all the animals that live on farms.

This year we had a booth at Hilltop Mall to showcase our preschool during The Week Of The Young Child. We were part of 20 organizations giving out information about our program on April 13th. Since we were not able to have the annual fundraiser breakfast this year, we decided to work with Runza. We held a fundraiser there on April 26th and it was well attended. Thank you to everyone who helped us out.

God Bless,
Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya

Happy May!

The 3yr & 4yr old classroom started April with learning about different types of weather and the season spring. They made a sun, picture of a thunderstorm with rain and colored blossoms to be put on our tree in the hall. They learned about sunshine, wind, rain, snow, tornadoes and hail. We can even say the word precipitation.

The following week, we learned the lifecycles of butterflies and frogs. We made crafts of both lifecycles. Our baby caterpillars are supposed to be coming in the mail. We will be having fun watching them grow, change and patiently waiting for them to become butterflies! We also learned about how God made frogs from tiny eggs. They learned the difference between a frog and a toad.

Next, we will be learning all the different ways we can take care of the Earth. We will go on a walking field trip to the park and pick up trash. We will learn how to sort recycling too!

Then we will learn about lots of types of insects and how you can tell the difference between an insect and not an insect. We also begin to make Mother's Day and Father's Day cards! The kids tell us a lot about their parents. It is so cute!

Oh, and by the way, we have taught all the letters, numbers 0-10, shapes and colors! They are even learning big numbers like 17. They can read words like GO, UP, WE, MOM and DAD. It is crazy how fast time is going!

Go out and take care of God's planet!
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Lora

Preschool still has a few more openings
for the upcoming 2021-2022 classes.
For more information contact Kandy in the
office at (308) 237-5544.

MAY (and June) CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, May 2nd

**Affirmation of Baptism
@ 8:45am**

**New Members Received @ both services
Please join us in welcoming them.**

**SUNDAY,
MAY 16TH
SENIOR
RECOGNITION
SERVICE**

Graduates are welcome to bring **pictures, announcements, and party invitations if you wish to invite the congregation** to the church and post on the Bulletin Board across from the elevator. This month is all about you, and we are extremely excited to share this special time with you! Congratulations!



The Late Service will change time on
Sunday, May 30, 2021,
From 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

EVENTS
Mark Your Calendar

BUDGET FORUM MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 9:45 AM – CENTENNIAL HALL

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH AT 9:45 AM – CENTENNIAL HALL

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

MAY 2021

3315 G Avenue - Kearney, Nebraska 68847



The church calendar, weekly bulletins, prayer lists, and LIVE Webstream Broadcasts on Sunday mornings can be found on our website:

<https://firstlutherankearney.org/>

Find us on Facebook: "First Lutheran Church-Kearney"

Sign Up for Weekly Email Updates: office@firstlutherankearney.org

LIVE Radio Broadcast Sundays at 8:45am: KXPB 1460AM

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

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