

# THE MESSENGER

## Summers in Allentown

As I was growing up in Virginia, I would spend at least two weeks in Allentown, Pennsylvania with my mother's side of the family. One week in late June our whole family would go up for a visit. Then in August, my sister and I would go again for a week. This was the fun week. We would go to Dorney Amusement Park one day. Out for lunch with all the great aunts another day. Grandma would make apple dumplings from scratch and all the shoo-fly muffins I could eat.

During this August visit, I would spend a day at school with my Aunt Phyllis. She is the one that we pray for in church in the prayers of intercession, as she is slowly deteriorating from a stroke and dementia. She was a reading specialist at Washington Elementary school in Allentown, home of the Washington Wildcats. I would help her with her bulletin boards, organizing files, and getting lots of fresh, new reading textbooks out of shipping boxes – carefully so as to not hurt the fresh spines.

Also, during one of our visits, I would help her with Vacation Bible School at her Lutheran church. I loved helping with the registration table and going around to assist in the classrooms. The energy from all of the kids was fun to watch. Seeing my aunt, who loved being an elementary school teacher, interact with the kids inspired me to be a teacher too.

We will be having Vacation Bible School this year in July. We hope the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> works for you and your family. While it is wonderful to have all the young children in our congregation, friends, and neighbors participate in VBS, it is equally as wonderful to see our Middle School and High School kids helping alongside the adults. Faith and active church membership are passed down from generation to generation. Modeled. Nurtured. You never know who you might inspire to be a teacher, a pastor, or a faithful church member.

If you would like to volunteer your time at VBS this year, you may volunteer through links on [firstlutherankearney.org](http://firstlutherankearney.org), call the church office, or email Stefani Wegner at [StefaniDWegner@gmail.com](mailto:StefaniDWegner@gmail.com). Those who volunteer by June 28<sup>th</sup> will receive a free T-Shirt. You can also register to participate in VBS through the website or church office.

Looking forward to heading to North Castle with you in July!

Pastor Michelle

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

## A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



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Prayer Ventures for June 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

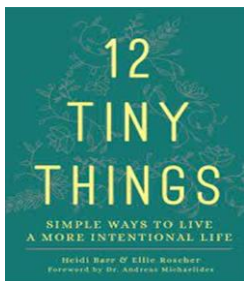


LUTHERAN  
CAMPUS MINISTRY

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



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



New Book for *Reading with Pastor Michelle* in June!

**12 Tiny Things** by Heidi Barr and Ellie Roscher.

We will begin on June 9<sup>th</sup> and end on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP RETURNS!

Beginning Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> we will begin worshipping again at 6pm.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLOOD DRIVE



First Lutheran Church is doing a Blood Drive on Friday, June 18, 2021, at the American Red Cross Building in Kearney from 12 – 5 p.m.

If you are interested in donating please contact the Red Cross Directly at 1-800-733-2767. The Red Cross Building is located at 520 W. 8th. Kearney, NE 68845.

## BUDGET FORUM



There will be a Budget Forum on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 9:50 a.m. in Centennial Hall. A Zoom link is available for those who cannot attend in person. Please contact the church office for the link.

## ANNUAL MEETING



First Lutheran Church is having our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at 9:50 a.m. in Centennial Hall. A Zoom link is available for those who cannot attend in person. Please contact the church office for the link. We will be voting on our annual church budget, constitution changes, and for elected positions.



Dear First Lutheran Church,

First Lutheran Preschool wants to give a HUGE thank you to the First Lutheran Church families for all their generous donations at our Runza fundraiser in April. The preschool raised around \$925.00. We are so blessed to have you all that want help our preschool thrive!

We have such an outstanding preschool board that helped a ton to make this fundraiser successful too! Annette Schwartz made fun flyers and promoted it on social media with live streaming! Many also posted it on Facebook! The Pastors did a fabulous job promoting it at services! A lot of the preschool board signed up to help throughout the night and Runza was grateful that we were there to help. Thank you all again!  
Sincerely, Judy, Amanda, Lora, and Sonya

# HELPING OTHERS

## HABITAT WORK DAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 26th

The First Lutheran Habitat for Humanity Workday is coming at the end of June. The building project will begin at 8 a.m. at the Marlatt Subdivision on 17th St and Avenue M. and will go until 2 p.m. A sign-up board is in the narthex covering the various responsibilities that day. Prayerfully consider joining other members of First Lutheran in our Habitat build. There will be a devotion along with coffee and donuts. Contact Kandy in the church office to sign up or for any questions.



## **MISSION OUTREACH SUMMER PROJECT**

Now, we have an opportunity. The Mission Outreach Team has designated Care Portal as their annual Summer Project for 2021. CarePortal creates connections within the Circles of Care around the isolated child. Bringing together the family, church and community to create a holistic, healthy approach to caring for kids. First and foremost, CarePortal exists to help vulnerable children and families. Requests submitted through CarePortal come from caseworkers at government child welfare agencies or other child-serving organizations approved by CarePortal to vet needs. Churches can also identify and submit needs within their own church and community through the Church Entered Needs feature. For more information on CarePortal, visit their website at [careportal.org/about-us](http://careportal.org/about-us). First Lutheran has been a helping partner of CarePortal since 2018.

You may send a check to the Church Office and just write CarePortal on the memo line. There will also be CarePortal collection boxes at the Visitors' Stations in the narthex. Your generosity will allow help children in need living in the Kearney area. Our partnership with CarePortal is just another example of how First Lutheran through the generous donations of its members is sharing God's love and making a difference within the Kearney community. Thank you for your generosity!



Thank you to the First Lutheran Church Quilting Ladies. This is the donation they have been working on for the 2021 Quilt Donation for Carol Joy Holling Camp's fundraiser.

What a beautiful masterpiece!

Stop by the sanctuary and see it in person before it heads to the Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction which is on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

# 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

## APRIL FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Apr. 2021	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 66,037	\$ 619,607	\$ 592,626
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	\$ 30,985
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (58,655)	\$ (634,977)	\$ (618,092)

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

Facilities Budget:	Apr. 2021	YTD '20-'21	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 5,465	\$ 72,404	\$ 75,786
Expenditures	\$ (3,530)	\$ (26,534)	\$ (25,157)

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

## Giving Options

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

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

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

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

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



# COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from the Council,

This month we wrap up our fiscal year as well as a year that has been very trying, unprecedented, painful, yet hopeful. Basically, it was a year of survival, and WE SURVIVED. *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5* says “*For we live by faith, not by sight.*” COVID-19 is not visible to the naked eye, and we have feared it for the last year. At times treating it like it is bigger than God. Jesus is also not visible to us and as believers, we know to dig deep, keep the faith, and not doubt God’s ability to get us through difficult times. Was it easy? NO! But, God continued to guide us and bless us with the people and the means to provide Church Services, both online and in person, Committee Meetings, Outreach projects, Building projects, Preschool, Youth Meetings, Sunday School, FROG, First Communion, Confirmation, Baptisms, Funerals, and the addition of New Members.

First Lutheran Church has continued to move forward and will once again hold Saturday evening services and add the Confession and Forgiveness back into worship in June. We will also hold our Budget Forum on June 13<sup>th</sup> and our Annual Meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>, both between services. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be looking to approve the budget and any necessary constitution changes, holding elections, and providing a Q&A session. We are asking that you, the congregation, to attend the meetings, to consider running for a position in church leadership, and to provide questions for the Q&A session. Due to time restrictions, we are asking that you please submit your questions to me by June 16<sup>th</sup> at [kstroudt@gmail.com](mailto:kstroudt@gmail.com).

Thank you for your patience and support this past year. We know it hasn’t been easy at times. Your Council is proud to serve and is always willing to answer questions the best we can.

Kim Troudt, President

First Lutheran Church Council



## 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?

If you aren’t able to talk to a church council member during the service and want to reach out to them; please contact the office or find their information in the Narthex on the wall.

# WORSHIP THEMES AND INFORMATION

JUNE 6, 2021

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GENESIS 3:8-15; PSALM 130; 2

CORINTHIANS 4:13-5:1; MARK 3:20-35

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in the light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

JUNE 13, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

EZEKIEL 17:22-24; PSALM 92:1-4; 12-15; 2

CORINTHIANS 5:6-10[11-13]14-17; MARK 4:26-34

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

JUNE 20, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

JOB 38:1-11; PSALM 107:1-3, 23-32; 2

CORINTHIANS 6:1-13; MARK 4:35-41

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

JUNE 27, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

LAMENATIONS 3:22-33; PSALM 30; 2

CORINTHIANS 8:7-15;

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

## Come and Join us for Summer Worship

Beginning Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>: 6:00pm  
Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through Sunday,  
August 15<sup>th</sup>:  
8:45am and 10:30am



## Summer Music Help

One of the ways we express our praise to God is through music that is part of our worship experience each week. Since our choirs take a break during the summers, we need people who would be interested in providing special music. This can be vocal or instrumental, solos or ensembles. If you are interested, or you know someone who would might be interested, you may contact Natalie Radcliffe in the church office.

# PRAY

## REPORT ON ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

Sister Ruth Ellen attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days on April 18-21, 2021. The theme for this year was “Climate Justice”. Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, gave the Sunday morning sermon. The rest of the week was filled with workshops such as, “Paving the Way for Climate Justice”, “Advocacy for just US foreign and migration policies” toward Latin America and about the Filipino’s struggle to protect their land and communities. There were denominational gatherings and state gatherings. There were about 30 denominations in attendance. The ELCA has our own advocacy network that deals with a variety of concerns. If you are interested go to [ELCA.org/advocacy/actioncenter](http://ELCA.org/advocacy/actioncenter) or [ELCA.org/advocacy/signup](http://ELCA.org/advocacy/signup)



## Lutheran World Relief Kits

Please help us collect items for Lutheran World Relief Kits! First Lutheran Church takes pride in donating and assembling School Kits, Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits, Mission Quilts, and Fabric Kits. Pens and pencils, a toothbrush, a quilt...ordinary items we take for granted become treasures in the hands of their recipients. The items you send will be cherished and used by people who take nothing for granted, for whom a simple bar of soap is special. Your gifts of time and resources are beautiful expressions of God’s love and grace to those in greatest need. Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted. Please do not donate items with any religious or patriotic symbols. Thank you for your partnership in putting them together. For a complete list of items needed, visit <http://lwr.org/getinvolved/kits>. We have a box inside the front doors for donations.

If you have any questions about donations or would like to volunteer sewing school backpacks, please call Theress Bricker 308-233-2469



## Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

The family and friends of Marvin Elliott on Marvin’s death.

The family and friends of Dan Brooks’ brother.

The family of John and Lori McArthur on the death of John’s friend, Paul Schluckebier.

The family and friends of Mary and Frank Wright on the death of Mary’s cousin, Terri Thomas.

The family and friends of Ed & Cindy Luhn on the loss of Ed’s father, Sherman Luhn.

The family and friends of Judy Henning on the death of Judy’s cousin, Sharon Mason.

The family and friends of Nancy Darling on the death of Nancy’s husband, Jim Darling.

The family and friends of Jan Erickson and Lynn Brewster on the passing of Stan Erickson.





## Retirement of Flags

Did you know that the Boy Scout Troop # 139 of First Lutheran Church collects old flags? When a flag is worn out or no longer a fitting symbol to display, a flag can be properly retired by bringing it to First Lutheran Church and putting it in the box in the Narthex so that it can be retired properly, and with respect. The Boy Scouts have flag retirement ceremony's and make sure that the flags get the care and the respect they deserve. You do not need to know how to fold the flag properly, just bring in your old, wind-blown and worn out flags and retire them with honor in our tote. Dana Ernst – Committee Chair



## Congratulations to our June Volunteers of the Month: The Nominating Committee!

The Nominating Committee consists of Co-Chairs, Kimra Schipporeit and Marilyn Lammers; and members Laura Love, Paula Peterson, Ken Tracy, and Cindy Wessels.

The Nominating Committee is a two-year term and is made up of six members. Their work begins in the early part of the calendar year, contacting members to encourage them to serve in elected leadership positions such as Congregation Council, Preschool Board, Endowment Committee, and the Nominating Committee. They attempt to find folks who have gifts for these particular positions.

During this post COVID-19 time, it has been an especially difficult to find volunteers. We appreciate those who have stepped forward to be part of the election process. Thank you, Nominating Committee, for all your hard work!

# WOMEN of the ELCA

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association (W.E.L.C.A.) First Lutheran Church (FLC) Board NOMINATIONS of officers is this month. We have nominees for all except Co-Chair (or Vice President) position the nominee for President will serve depending on having the Circle Chairs help with providing a co-chair due to the Presidential nominee's schedule. We pray that someone will come forward.

**The June 7, 2021 Board meeting changed** to meet 7:00 p.m. in F.L.C. ROOMS 20-22. The July 12<sup>th</sup> W.E.L.C.A. General Meeting & Elections is under discussion at June Board meeting.

**Save to Serve project** - by Betty Kempf – Two dozen Nebraska Lutheran women met at Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland for a Saved to Serve weekend April 30-May 2, 2021. It was a mix of inspiration, information, service, creativity, worship, music, prayer, friendship-building, great food, and wonderful. We listened to former Bishop Dr. David DeFreese describe Mosaic as a place where “we serve people” and where “God does wonderful things with broken hearts”. Teresa Roll, who works for our synod and has visited our Mosaic Center in Tanzania, referred to Mosaic as a “good news story in a bad news world”. She expressed enthusiasm about the excitement the children in Tanzania would have when they received our gifts which included: 90 fidget mats, 100+ bibs of two styles, 62 fleece blankets, 21 pocket softies and 140 Beanie Babies to calm anxious hearts, and 68 cutest ever felt water bottle covers. We also filled 50 welcome bags for counselors coming to CJH Camp this summer (bug spray, suntan lotion, etc.). We made and exchanged “prayer angels”, learned motions to the Lord's prayer, gathered around the fire pit for songs and s'mores, tried paddle boating, and toured the camp by bus with **Jason Gerdes, former FLC member** and NLOM leader.



## 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.

**June 7, 2021** – WELCA Board meeting 7:00 p.m. - FLC in Rooms 20-22 across from the South Kitchen.

**July 12, 2021** – 6:30 p.m. (note time change) W.E.L.C.A. General Meeting and Elections at TBD

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,

I can't believe it was just a year ago that my family came to visit Kearney for the first time. We were in the midst of quarantine in Madison, WI and were traveling for the first time since that fateful day when the world shut down in March 2020 - not only were we anxious about traveling in pandemic, we were facing some major life changes ahead that meant major transitions in vocation, school, housing, culture, and even climate. To say that as a family we were pretty anxious is an understatement!

When we arrived to our hotel in town, Kandy Bacon had put together a welcome basket with treats for our family and toys for Jens, and my call committee had dropped off a "Welcome to Kearney" package including all sorts of information from the Kearney Chamber of Commerce and ways to get to know this community. We needed all three of us to get the goodies from the reception desk to our room! Our family knew from the beginning that hospitality is central to this congregation.

Now that we've lived here almost a year, we're beginning to feel like this is our community. It's been a really difficult year for everyone around the globe, and we've felt the shifts as a family in ways that have felt gigantic, tiny, and everything in-between. Pandemic has changed us. It's been hard to feel connected. In the midst of it all, the hospitality of this congregation has been a gift – ranging from meals and groceries delivered to our porch when my family all had Covid last fall to cards and fist bumps from all ages – and I just know that the Holy Spirit is up to good things in this place.

As vaccination rates in Buffalo County increase, I am hopeful to see your entire faces – meeting you all with masks is the safest thing – it can be hard on my memory! Thank you for your ongoing hospitality to me and my family. May the gift of this congregation in the form of open arms and open hearts continue to be shown to your church staff, our neighbors in Kearney and across the globe, and to one another. God is up to good things!

In hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth



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

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

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

# FLY SUMMER INFORMATION

## *FLY Summer Calendar*

### JUNE

**Sunday, June 6 @ 2-5pm**  
**FLY Work Day @ Stithem's**

The Stithem's bought time at our auction last fall - come rake mulch followed by BBQ!  
Meet at church.

**Wednesday night youth group:**  
**June 2, 9, 16, & 23 @ 7pm**

All incoming 9th-outgoing 12th welcome

**Summer Stretch Lock-In:**

**Sat, June 26 @ 1pm - Sun, June 27 @ 1pm**

Youth-led worship (Sat 6pm, Sun 8:45 & 10:30am services), local community service, and lock-in!

### JULY & AUGUST

**Assist with VBS**

**Mon, July 12 - Thur, July 15 @ 6-8pm**

See Pastor Elisabeth to sign up!

**FLY Mystery Outings**

**July 21 & 28 @ 7pm**

Info will be sent to parents 24 hours in advance. Youth meet at church.

**No youth group August 4 or 11**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Fall FLY Kickoff for Parents & Youth**

**Wed, August 18 @ 7pm**

*join us all summer!*



/groups/flykearney



@firstluthyouthkearney

Pastor Elisabeth cell: 262-349-1885

*Save the date:*

*FLY fall kickoff for parents & youth:*

*Wednesday, August 18 @ 7pm*

# CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATES

At Campus Lutheran, we're looking to upgrade our kitchen wares so we can be ready to host students for The Vessel Dinner Church every Thursday night beginning August 26!

**Will you help us get the items we need and join in our Kitchen Shower all summer long? See our Amazon Wish List for everything we're dreaming of!**

Items will be shipped directly to Campus Lutheran via our Amazon Wish List. If you have other donation ideas (brand new or very gently used only, please, our students deserve the best!), please reach out to me!

Thank you!  
Pastor Elisabeth



CAMPUS  
LUTHERAN

## KITCHEN SHOWER

Help us serve students well @ dinner church for the 21-22 school year with new and refreshed kitchen supplies!

View our Amazon Wishlist:  
[tinyurl.com/993cfprm](https://www.amazon.com/?list_rd_as_tk=993cfprm)

Q's to Pastor Elisabeth  
ehimmelman@firstlutheran Kearney.org

# CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATES (CONTINUED)

What we're looking forward to this fall at Campus Lutheran:

THE VESSEL  
dinner church  
@ CAMPUS LUTHERAN

Thursdays during the academic year  
6:00-7:30pm  
2715 9th Ave | lower level



## WHAT IS DINNER CHURCH?

**"They (the early church)  
devoted themselves to the  
apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, to the breaking of  
bread and the prayers"**

**Acts 2.42**



Simply, it's an expanded service of Holy Communion.

We gather as a community to prepare the meal.

We pray together.

We begin the meal by passing the bread, communing our neighbor with the words, "the Body of Christ given for you."

We hear the Word of God proclaimed over our simple community meal.

We engage with scripture and one another, bringing all of who we are to the table.

We finish the meal by passing the wine, communing our neighbor with the words, "the blood of Christ, shed for you."

We cleanup together as an act of service to the community gathered.

We end with dessert and a sending blessing, trusting in the goodness of God's grace and love.

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW MEMBERS SPRING 2021

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Amanda Whitaker



Brett Orsborn, Nora Shockey  
Emry and Ayla Orsborn



Keith Roberts  
Brendan Roberts

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW MEMBERS SPRING 2021

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Michael and Bridget Von Seggern  
Porter Von Seggern



Steve and Michelle Johannesen,  
Jacob and Ethan Johannesen



# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM CLASS OF 2021



## **Congratulations 2021 Confirmands!**

Dante Cardenas, Luke Draper, Ethan Eilers, Rydge Jackson, Cayden John, Keeley Krohn, Emily McArthur, Derrick Nonhof, Hannah Merz, Evan Slaymaker, Karlye Turner, April VanHorn, Brooke Van Horn, Grace Weber, Marcus Weides, Karson Wright



# CHILDREN

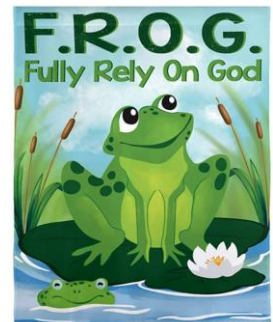
## NOISY OFFERING RETURNS



Beginning the Weekend of June 5/6 our Noisy Offering Returns

During the Children's Sermon!  
Let's Make A Joyous Noise to the Lord

Sunday  
School and  
FROG  
Return in  
August!



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 12-15

## Here ye! Here ye!

First Lutheran Church is calling all incoming pre-school through fifth grade students to join our quest as The King's valiant Knights in search of the King's Armor!

Our Vacation Bible School theme this summer, "**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. As the Knights make their way through stations with lessons, music, crafts, games, and snacks, they will learn to be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever. We invite your children to take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to "armor up!"

## Join Us for Vacation Bible School!

Monday, July 12th -  
Thursday, July 15th

**Check-In & Free-Will  
Donation Meal:**  
5:15pm – 5:50pm  
*For campers, volunteers,  
and families*

**Vacation Bible School:**  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
*Thursday night parent  
program: 8pm – 8:30pm*

**For More Information &  
to Register:**  
[firstlutheran Kearney.org](http://firstlutheran Kearney.org) or  
308-237-5544

*VBS t-shirts are \$13.00 until  
June 27<sup>th</sup>; after this time, the  
price may increase.*

~ Vacation Bible School Needs Volunteers and Donations ~

## Volunteers:

We need folks to help during VBS with prepping and serving meals, supervising campers, and teaching lessons. If you would like to volunteer your time, you may volunteer through links on [firstlutheran Kearney.org](http://firstlutheran Kearney.org), call the church office, or email Stefani Wegner at [StefaniDWegner@gmail.com](mailto:StefaniDWegner@gmail.com). Those who volunteer by June 28<sup>th</sup> will receive a free T-Shirt.

## Donations:

If you would like to donate money or supplies, you may reference the list below or the display in the Church Narthex. Please drop donations in the Church Office by July 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Walmart Gift Cards
- Hobby Lobby Gift Cards
- Oriental Trading Company Gift Cards
- Rectangular Plastic Table Clothes in light blue, dark purple, silver or orange
- Steamers in light blue, dark purple, white, or orange
- Paper Napkins
- Plastic or Styrofoam Plates
- Paper or Plastic Cups
- Plastic Spoons and Forks
- Bags of pillow filling

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 12-15

Color the ornaments using crayons and/or markers. Cut out and add a hook or tie. Hang and enjoy!



# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello from PreK,

As we closed the month of May and another amazing year with the wonderful children, it is a bittersweet time for everyone. For the past 9 months we have been together in class learning and sharing, and now it comes to an end.

We were very busy in May as we worked hard in reviewing all we have learned this past year. We also talked about summer safety and summer celebrations. made Mother's Day gifts and had our annual "bike and scooter" day.

Graduation was on Thursday May 20th at Dryden Park. There the children gave a short program followed by receiving Diploma's and a cookie social. It was a fun day and how wonderful to see their smiling faces!

This past year we finished with over 50 sight words, learned all of our upper- and lower-case letters, introduced math skills, learned a lot about animals and nature, loved doing all kinds of science things and I could go on and on. The children have come a long way since our first day or PreK and so have the teachers. The children always teach us something every year and this year was no different. We sure will miss them. We also want to thank all the great parents for the support you have given us this year. You are all so wonderful.

We would like to wish you a safe and fun summer and may God Bless you!

Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya

Hello First Lutheran Church!

Wow! Our school year is over and it went super fast! We have had a phenomenal school year! The kids and parents were all super amazing!

We have been reviewing the letters, numbers, and shapes. Made fun cards for their mom and dad. We made a book about things they like and they are able to read it. The classes did a great job drawing themselves in their book. It was their first self-portrait and we were so impressed! Inside the book, it also has a questionnaire that we asked the kids at the beginning of the year and another page that shows how little their hands and feet were on the first week of school. It will be cute for their families to see how much they have changed and how well they can read this book by themselves!

In the last weeks of preschool, we learned about the five senses. They had a blast smelling things and guessing what they were. The students tasted things blindfolded and felt things without looking. The kids received a present of a kazoo that we could hear well with our ears! (LOL) We are truly going to miss these wonderful children!

We talked about how much they have grown and are so proud of these kids! On the last day, we had a celebration in the park with their families. They got to make a nature craft, received their certificate for passing preschool, sang a song and then played at the park! We also gave them 2 new books to take home and hope to have their families read a bunch to them over the summer!

We hope you feel you got a good taste of what we have been up to this school year!

God Bless and have a great summer!

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.

# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

It is hard to believe that it has been 13 years that I have taught here at First Lutheran Preschool. From the first day I stepped into the Pre-K classroom it felt like home. Over the years there have been many changes, from teachers to building remodeling, but still the one thing that has never changed, are the wonderful people that have always been there for our Preschool. Your generosity has helped in making it a wonderful place for children to learn.

As I look back over the past 13 years, I see that we were able to upgrade our classrooms with new technology, toys, books, furniture and the beautiful playground for all to enjoy. We were able to purchase new car seats and give out scholarships, all because of you and your generosity, and this I want to personally thank you for.

I have made lifelong friends here and have been able to celebrate the joys and the sorrows right along with you. I have watched so many children enter the classroom as youngsters and leave as young boys and girls. I have watched them enter middle school and I have watched them graduate. I have seen them start T Ball to becoming star athletes. It has been an amazing journey in my life and for that I am so grateful to you!

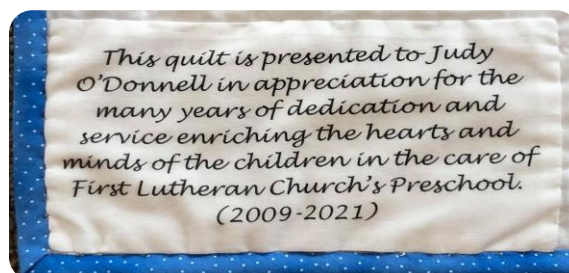
Through all my 25 plus years of teaching I can honestly say that this has been the best years here at First Lutheran Preschool. Now along with the congregation and families I could not have done it without my great teachers, Ms. Sonya, Ms. Amanda and Ms. Lora. The best part is not only are we co-workers; but I consider them family. I will miss them and all the joy they brought into my life and I wish them the best years to come!

So once more before I end this letter, I want to thank everyone for all you have done to make our preschool what it is today. I hope to see many of you again and may God continue to bless everyone!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Judy O'Donnell

We presented Mrs. Judy with this handmade quilt that has hands traced from all of this year's students to represent the many lives she touched in her time here.

Thank you, Judy Niemann, for using your incredible talent to create such a meaningful gift.



# JUNE (and July) CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

BUDGET FORUM MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:50 AM – CENTENNIAL HALL

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:50 AM – CENTENNIAL HALL

dates  
to Remember



Saturday Evening Services will be starting on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Don't feel comfortable sitting in Centennial Hall with a bunch of other members for either the Budget Forum or the Annual Meeting?

We have you covered. Contact Kandy in the office for the Zoom links.



service time  
**change**

Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>:  
the late service is at 10:30am

**Vacation Bible School**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Join us from  
6:00 to 8:00 pm**

**Supplies and  
Volunteers needed**

First Lutheran Church, ELCA  
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Kearney, Nebraska 68847-3699

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RECEIVING  
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 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](mailto:office@firstlutherankearney.org)**

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

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

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