

THE MESSENGER

Attitude

In Reading with Pastor Michelle, we are reading *12 Tiny Things* by Heidi Barr and Ellie Roscher. In one of the recent chapters, I was really moved by the following, “Every day we can choose between scarcity and abundance, between a stupor and being awake, between crabby and wonder.” (p. 85) We can make choices about how we are going to interact each day. We can do it from a place of scarcity, stupor and crabbiness, or we can have an attitude of abundance, awake-ness, and wonder.

What might it look like if we approached this season of the pandemic with abundance, awake-ness and wonder? Maybe we would cherish opportunities to be with others. Maybe we would see just how much we do have instead of looking at what we don’t have. Maybe God’s blessings and work in our world might be more apparent to us. Maybe instead of putting the worst possible light on other’s decisions and actions, we could take a page out of Luther’s writings about the 8th Commandment and put the best construal on our neighbor’s actions.

My Co-Lead Pastor said yesterday, “We are discovering that in some significant ways recovering from COVID is actually more challenging than coping with COVID...” When we were coping with COVID, we were limited on what we could and could not do. Now, everyone is at a different stage as we are recovering from COVID. Our attitudes are not helpful or healthy when we are crabby about things not being the way we want them to be.

It is a well-used but important phrase, “Have an attitude of gratitude.” An attitude of gratitude is an attitude of abundance, eyes open to what is really happening around us, and wonder about how God is working in our lives and in the world.

As we are refreshed by the warm weather and opportunities to gather and to travel, may we return to God’s house with a renewed attitude of gratitude.

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 July 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



NEBRASKA
LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY

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



Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

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

Do you get the Messenger online and a copy in the mail? Help the church save some money by letting the office know that you no longer want the postal mail copy. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Have you already signed up? You can contact the office and they would be happy to register you or you can go to the FLC website and click on the registration link and sign up. VBS is July 12-15th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We would love to have you join us in our North Castle adventures!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding Coordinator (Position Opening)

The FLC Wedding Coordinator serves as the liaison between the couple and the church, providing guidance and structure to the ceremony. This is a paid position begins in January 2022. Contact the church office for more information.

Sunday School Coordinator (Volunteer Opening)

Sunday School is for Pre-K through 5th grade children, running late August through late April. The curriculum, a thorough pre-set calendar, a pacer guide, and lots of support are provided! Contact Stefani at StefaniDWegner@gmail.com or the church office for more information.

Advent Fair Coordinator (Volunteer Opening)

The Advent Fair is held each November the weekend after Thanksgiving. To kick-off the Advent season, FLC children and volunteers gather to make crafts and have fun! Contact Stefani at StefaniDWegner@gmail.com or the church office for more information.

Imaging Team (Volunteer Opening)

The Imaging Team needs help! Learn to provide sound, video and live stream support for Saturday and Sunday services. Training provided! Contact Adam at AdamBWegner@gmail.com or the church office for more information.

Worship (Volunteer Opening)

Usher and Communion distribution help is needed! No experience necessary, will train. If interested, please contact Kandy at (308) 237-5544.

Rose Garden

Did you know that you can purchase a rose bush (either pink or red) for \$39.99 to decorate the church from your family? We also do personalized stones in memory of loved ones. The cost of the stone is \$30.00. The memorial stones are purchased, delivered to the church and placed on the church's property by the rose garden so that you can visit and is a perfect opportunity to remember someone special. The roses and stones go in the rose garden on the south side of the kitchen/gym. If you are interested or have questions on either item; please contact Shirley Smalley at (308) 293-4815 or ssmalley1@outlook.com

HELPING OTHERS

Helping the Mission Outreach Team Support ELCA World Hunger

Did you know that

- About more than 11% of our world's population (over 820 million people) are hungry?
- About 10% of our world's population (736 million people) live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day?
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from?

The Mission Outreach team is sponsoring a summer appeal to raise \$500 for ELCA World Hunger. Donation boxes are located at each Welcome Station to gather your gifts to this effort. Gifts to support our summer appeal may also be sent to the Church Office. For checks, please write ELCA World Hunger on the memo line.

CarePortal Celebrates

Thank you, First Lutheran Church, for helping be a part of celebrating 1,000 kids being served in Buffalo County. CarePortal celebrated this on Sunday, June 13th. This mission began with just one little boy receiving a bunk bed so he could stay with his father and took off from there. Since July of 2017, 14 churches across Buffalo County have joined forces to meet the needs of families in crisis. This has had an economic impact of over \$350,000.

Thank you for being a part of this generosity that changes Lives and generations forever. To learn more about CarePortal and how you can get involved, please visit www.COMPASSnebraska.org/CarePortal.



The 33rd Annual Quilt Auction begins Saturday, July 31st. There will be over 350+ quilts auctioned off. The live auction begins at 9:30 a.m. To view quilts, schedule and absentee bidding instructions go to CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction Lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 1:00 p.m. Free admission and free parking at Carol Joy Holling Camp.

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

MAY FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	May 2021	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 73,154	\$ 664,653	\$ 644,865
Payroll Protection Funds		\$ 28,108	\$ 60,497
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (57,784)	\$ (692,761)	\$ (668,102)

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

Facilities Budget:	May 2021	YTD '20-'21'	YTD '19-'20
Revenue	\$ 6,210	\$ 78,614	\$ 81,284
Expenditures	\$ (52,080)	\$ (78,614)	\$ (27,923)

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,

As we move forward from the uncertainties, fear, and sadness of the pandemic we should also move forward from normalcy and return to a church centered in Christ. It is understandable that we are looking for what is comfortable – regular worship, the liturgy, small group experiences, and fellowship. But instead of looking back, let’s look forward to times of growth in community, unity, and outreach.

The council is ready to focus on new and exciting opportunities at First Lutheran Church. Please help us open doors to new ways of welcoming and engaging those in our community.

Thank you again for your patience and support. We, as a council, have the best interests of you, our members, at heart. We are looking to guide our church in new directions, just as God is guiding us in faith.

FLC Church Council



CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Dave Zimmer
President

Miranda
Obermeier
Vice President

Lee Fritson
Treasurer

Judy Henning
Secretary

Mark Kottmeyer

Rachel Leach

Michael
Rafferty

Kelly
Russman

Kim Troutd

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.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL COVENANT OF CONDUCT Section on Sharing Member Opinions and Feedback

In order for the Congregation of First Lutheran Church and their Congregation Council to deal effectively with issues, the following guidelines are to be followed:

The Congregation Council encourage congregation members to share their opinions with the Pastors, Congregation Council, and at Congregational Meetings. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a member of the Congregation Council, the Council person shall ask, —*What would you like me to do with this information?*

- a. If the member desires to have the information transmitted to the Council, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next Council meeting. The time and date shall be given.
- b. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the Council member shall ask the member for permission to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the Council member shall say, —“I’m sorry but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments.”
- c. If permission is given, the Council member shall report the information/opinion to the Council using the member’s name.
- d. At his/her discretion, a Council member may ask that the member refer this issue to another Council member for presentation.
- e. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the council. Action may include: —received as information, —Pastors and/or President to visit member and report at next meeting, etc.
- f. Opinions may be shared in writing with the Council and shall be handled in the above-mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed. The Council will not act on items which have been submitted anonymously.

Adopted Unanimously by Council 6-8-21

WORSHIP THEMES AND INFORMATION

July 4, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EZEKIEL 2:1-5; PSALM 123; 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10; MARK 6:1-13; PSALM 48

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

July 11, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AMOS 7:7-15; PSALM 85:8-13; EPHESIANS 1:3-14; MARK 6:14-29

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod’s fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God’s saving love.

New Prayer Books are on the Welcome Stations! July/August/September

July 18, 2021

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JEREMIAH 23:1-6; PSALM 23; EPHESIANS 2:11-22; MARK 6:30-34; 53-56

Mark’s gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today’s gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn’t think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers’ need. We are sent from Christ’s table to care for others and for ourselves.

July 25, 2021

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 KINGS 4:42-44; PSALM 145:10-18; EPHESIANS 3:14-21; JOHN 6:1-21

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first of four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today, Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus’ table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference; it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

Do you know of a church member who isn’t able to attend service and needs communion? Please contact the church office and we will set them up with a communion minister. Thank you!

PRAY

Do you have an upcoming medical procedure scheduled and want a Pastor to visit or someone to pray for you? Contact the office and ask about being put on the prayer list.



Lutheran World Relief 2020

WOW! Thank you, First Lutheran Church, for making LWR Packing Day a success. Even during the Covid-19 outbreak, First Lutheran Church came together for a wonderful cause. This year we donated, packed and shipped:

- 135 School Kits
- 44 Baby Care Kits
- 30 Personal Care Kits
- 53 Quilts

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits and Personal Care Kits are a reminder to families that even in the midst of crisis, they are not alone.

A big heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible!

Please help us make 2021 as successful as 2020 by donating items for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. Donation boxes are by the front entrance.

God Bless!

Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

- The friends and family of Marvin Knittel on his death.
- Nancy Darling and family on the death of Nancy's brother, Larry Larkowski.
- Ray, Zac & Alex Shanks, family and friends on the death of Robin Shanks.
- Lil Larson and family on the death of Lil's brother-in-law, Rev. Dale Skogman.





Congratulations to our July Volunteers of the Month: The Personnel Team!

The Personnel Team consists of PJ Bartels, chair; Jamie Banzhaf, secretary; Michelle Harter; Lisa Parish; Dave Zimmer; Kim Troudt; Pastor Rick Carlson and Pastor Michelle Carlson.

The Personnel Team is a three-year term and is made up of seven members. They evaluate staffing needs; recommend and interpret personnel policies; screen job applicants; consider pastoral, staff and congregational needs as far as it relates to personnel. The chairperson and the secretary are elected annually at the August meeting.

During the last year, our Executive Director resigned to take a new job. Personnel worked hard to find ways to cover the work done by the Executive Director. Much of that meant changing job descriptions of our current staff. Personnel also helped in the transition of our Preschool Director's retirement. Personnel also consistently updates the Personnel Policies of First Lutheran Church.

We want to thank you for all of your hard work and time spent handling the personnel needs of our church.

On behalf of Troop 139, I would like to thank all of you that donated books to the Troop 139 book drive! Your Troop collected 4 boxes full of books that will be donated to local agencies this summer. Troop 139 truly appreciates all of the support First Lutheran and the congregation provides us.
Scoutmaster Jason Baker

To my dear church family:

Attending to Jim's last days of his life and after, I felt your prayers, support and sympathy. You are one phenomenal bunch! The condolences, food and support were overwhelming! I am so thankful for all of you!

God Bless,
Nancy Darling

Thank you for making the Red Cross blood drive a huge success! We had 27 donors signs up and collected 24 units of blood. Great job First Lutheran members!

WOMEN of the ELCA

It is good that the council has approved more activities to be scheduled at church. Several circles have already started meeting and others are now making plans to gather again at church.

WELCA General Meeting

You are invited and encouraged to attend the Women's ELCA Meeting on Monday, July 12th at 6:30 PM in the South Platte Room (Second Floor) of the Kearney Public Library. After the business meeting including elections and refreshments, we will visit the Maker Space, where we will learn about all the things available to create, invent, and learn. We'll also have fun making something to take home. You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy lots of laughter while being entertained by the program committee's skit.

It's not too early to begin collecting items for the Infant Care and Personal Care Kits and the School Backpacks. Lists of the required items for the various kits are available at church and boxes will be available to drop off items. The quilters have appreciated the sheets that have been donated by church members. You will have an opportunity to help assemble kits on Sunday, September 12, 2021. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.



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.

July 12, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. (note time change) W.E.L.C.A. General Meeting and Elections at South Platte Room (Second Floor) of the Kearney Public Library

August 6-8, 2021, Save To Serve Lynch, NE -Niobrara Valley House of Renewal in Lynch, NE. Lodging at the House of Renewal Retreat Center. Participants will learn about the devastating 2019 flood and assist local People as they continue to recover.

Oct. 1-3, 2021 – Nebraska S.W.O. State Convention to be held at Camp Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center. The theme of the Event is "Listening for God's Call".



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,

August 15 will mark one year since my husband and son moved to Kearney and I began serving as Associate Pastor at First Lutheran and Campus Pastor at Campus Lutheran. Reflecting on this past year, I want to share some of the insights I've gained in walking with young adults:

1. Young adults are seeking a spiritual connection – they are often looking for some deeper meaningful relationship with something/someone greater in the universe.
2. Young adults are eager and willing to have deep and difficult discussions. Life doesn't always make sense, the Bible and our theology don't always make sense, and where the Holy Spirit is working in the world doesn't always make sense. Young adults, though, are brave to ask tough questions and to discern causes of issues in the Bible, life, and the world in ways that they may never have been given the chance to before.
3. Young adults don't settle for the status quo, they want to change the world. Through both actions (small and large) and words, young adults are making their voices heard that they do not want to stand aside and let injustices in this world continue. They are working hard to identify issues – systemic and otherwise – and to come up with alternative solutions that create a more equitable space for all.
4. Multigenerational relationships with other people of faith are vital to their own faith lives and spiritual growth. Young adults not only crave community with their peers, they also seek spiritual guidance from those who have lived longer and experienced more of life than they have, as well as relationships with those whom they have the advantage of more life experience. Each generation has insights to gain from one another and help guide each other on their faith journeys.
5. The message of God's grace and love for them is a lifeline – young adults are stressed out, anxious, financially burdened, and having to navigate adulthood in a whole new way from previous generations. The message of God's unconditional grace and love is a beacon of hope that reminds them that no matter the test grades, the places they fall short, and the stuff that is not going right – they are not alone, God is with them, and Jesus has already saved them so nothing they can do can separate them from the power of God's love.
6. This year's "traditional" class entering their junior year have never known a "normal" college experience. Everything was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and creating brave space to name the grief as well as hope from our collective trauma is critical. That's why we're trying Dinner Church, Thursday nights during the academic year.

Know a college student you could connect to an ELCA campus ministry? Look up locations and send info to ministry site leaders here: www.luminelca.org/refer-a-student

Will you help Campus Lutheran 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! www.tinyurl.com/993cfprm

In hope,
Pastor Elisabeth



FIRST LUTHERAN GRADUATES

Congratulations from First Lutheran
to the class of 2021 college graduates!

Emma Bragg,

Creighton College

Ella David,

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Drew Fritson,

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Jessica Fritson,

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Grace Lueders,

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Hunter Osentowski,

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Noah Shoemaker,

Doane University

Hope Schwartz,

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Eli Wolfe,

graduated December 2020



Congratulations!

CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATES



CAMPUS LUTHERAN

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT AVAILABLE BEGINNING IN AUGUST!

Are you or someone you know looking for a sweet and cozy, fairly cheap 1-bedroom apartment? Look no further than Campus Lutheran, located at 2715 9th Ave, Kearney.

Amenities:

- Fully furnished living room;
- Washer and dryer located in building's kitchen area for resident use;
- Entrances to building located on east and west sides; separate apartment entrance located in lower level of Campus Lutheran;
- Parking spot in Campus Lutheran lot (behind building) included.

Expectations:

Resident is expected to maintain a positive and supportive attitude towards the ministry of Campus Lutheran, the building and the activities within and around the building, and is invited to be active in the ministry. Must be a registered student at the University of Nebraska-Kearney; completion of at least two semesters of college, or age 19 or older. Interested in becoming active in Campus Lutheran Ministries preferred; but not required.

Cost:

Deposit: \$200 refundable at termination of residency

Monthly dues: \$350 with option to offset monthly rent by \$12/hour for each hour worked in building and on property grounds; approximately 3-10 hours/week possible, depending on the season.

For more information, contact:

Jen Puls, Campus Lutheran Administrator: JPuls@Region3.net or
Pastor Elisabeth: ehimmelman@firstlutherankearney.org

CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATES (CONTINUED)



CAMPUS
LUTHERAN

This fall, we are looking forward to:



Thursdays during the
academic year
6:00pm @ 2715 9th Ave.,

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

*Trusting God creates us as vessels
for love and grace, all are welcome
as we:*

- Prepare the meal together.
- Pass the homemade bread, communing our neighbor.
- Eat together, family style.
- Engage with scripture and each other, bringing all of who we are to the table.
- End the meal by passing wine, communing our neighbor.
- Clean up together as an act of service.
- Are sent with dessert and a blessing, trusting in the goodness of God.



Follow Campus Lutheran!



facebook.com/campuslutheran

FLY (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH) JULY SCHEDULE

No Wednesday night youth group in July!

Assist with Vacation Bible School July 12-15! We need you! More info:
firstlutherankearney.org

Save the date for Fall Kickoff for parents and youth
(calendar for year, ELCA Youth Gathering registration info, and more!):
Wednesday, August 18!



FLY & Confirmation Work (and swim and feast) Day @ Stithem's



FLY Progressive Dessert

Congratulations

Congregational Council: The incumbents were re-elected.

Judy Henning
Kelly Russman
Kim Troudt

Preschool Board:

Calli Cardenas
Melissa Henning
Megan Schmidt

Nominating Committee:

Heidi Andersen
Beth Forbess

Endowment:

Lori McArthur (3-year term)
Melanie Young (2-year term)

YOUTH PROGRAMMING REGISTRATION FORM

2020-2021 CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMMING REGISTRATION

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER CHILD & RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

*PLEASE NOTE YOUR CHILD MUST BE 4 YEARS OLD PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2021 TO PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL OR FROG *

CHILD'S NAME: _____ Male Female

BIRTHDATE: ____/____/____ GRADE & SCHOOL IN 2021-2022: _____

PARENT(S) GUARDIAN NAMES: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ MOTHER'S CELL PHONE: _____

FATHER'S CELL PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PHONE: _____

My child will be attending: **F.R.O.G.** (Wed. Pre-K through 5th Grade)

Sunday School (Pre-K through 8th Grade) **Confirmation** (Grades 6-8)

To get news & updates, we'd like to be contacted by: Mail Email Phone

I'd like to help on: Sundays Wednesdays Area of Interest: _____

I hereby grant permission for photographs or likenesses of my son/daughter _____ to be included on the internet website, social media, monthly newsletter or in advertisements of First Lutheran Church.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ date

I give permission for my child to participate fully in the Christian Educational Programs at First Lutheran Church, Kearney, Nebraska, including snacks and games. In case of an emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians of the child. In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for the medical personnel selected by the Sunday School, FROG or Confirmation staff to secure proper and necessary treatment for my child as named on this form.

Allergy Concerns: _____

Health Concerns: _____

Signature of parent/guardian _____ date

Physician's name and clinic _____ phone number



WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANKEARNEY.ORG

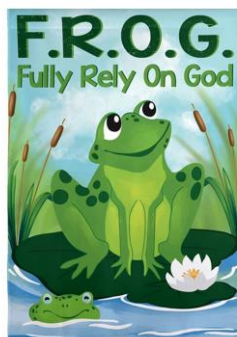
3315 G Avenue - Kearney, NE 68847
308-237-5544 - office@firstlutherankearney.org



CHILDREN

NOISY OFFERING AND VBS DONATIONS WILL BE GOING TO: CarePortal

As needs arise through CarePortal, we will use these special offerings to fill them. We invite the children to come and share their “Noisy Offering” with us during church! This fund will help families with items that they aren’t able to pay for themselves such as: a utility bill, a bed or dresser, a new bike or a car repair for transportation. We will be collecting noisy offerings for CarePortal through June of 2022.



Sunday School
and FROG is
coming in August!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 12-15



VBS IN JULY!
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
NIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE:
QUEST FOR THE KING'S ARMOR
MONDAY, JULY 12 - THURSDAY, JULY 15
6:00 – 8:00 PM
THURSDAY NIGHT PARENT PROGRAM
8:00 – 8:30 PM

Check In & Free-will donation Meal

5:15 – 5:50 PM for kids, volunteers and families. To register go to www.FirstLutheranKearney.org or call the office at (308) 237-5544. Registration forms are also located at the Welcome Stations and at check-in during the first night of VBS.

Registrations after June 27th T-shirts will be available for purchase in *limited* supply only at VBS Check-in on July 12th.

T-shirts are \$13.00.

If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS, please contact Stefani Wegner at StefaniDWegner@gmail.com or call (308) 237-5544. Donations are welcomed.

There is a donation box in the Narthex. Please bring all cash donations and gift cards, to the office. We are still needing Styrofoam plates, plastic cups and plastic cutlery.

Our VBS Participants will perform at the 10:30 am Church Service on Sunday, July 18th! Mark your Calendars!

Our Vacation Bible School theme this summer, "Knights of the 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 the 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!"

Be Strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.
Ephesians 6:10

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 12-15

Armor Up With Truth!

The knight pictured below can't find the belt of truth. Can you find the belt somewhere in the picture?



UPDATE FROM OUR FORMER MISSIONARY

You may remember Krystle Moraska who was the ELCA missionary in Argentina in 2016-2019 whose ministry we supported. If you remember, she and her family (husband, Ignacio; sons, Emilio and Camilo) visited First Lutheran in August 2018. Krystle preached at all three services that weekend and even made some Argentinian treats at a reception held for her and her family. On her return to the United States, Krystle enrolled at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago as she prepares to become an ELCA pastor. During her first year in school she and her family experienced a number of difficulties including Ignacio remaining in Argentina because of visa holdups, trying to find a daycare for her sons and then dealing with daycare shutdowns due to COVID, financial hardships, and challenges with housing. To help support her as she began her seminary studies and as she was dealing with difficult circumstance, First Lutheran through the Mission Outreach team provided generous financial support.

This past we received a wonderful letter from Krystle. She had a very successful school year as she is constantly being formed and informed through her seminary experiences. She was selected as one of the two recipients of the prestigious Echol's Preaching Prize for a sermon she preached (in English and Spanish) on the story of Moses' birth from Exodus. Ignacio has not only been reunited with the family he has found employment with the ELCA Churchwide office in Chicago. Both Emilio is now in an in-person preschool while Camilo attends an in-person daycare.

In the closing of her letter to us, Krystle writes, "I want to thank you for your financial and prayerful support to make my seminary education possible...[Y]our church community at First Lutheran in Kearney has been both water and sunlight to help me be able to grow and emerge here. Thank you for your generosity and the sharing of your gifts in this way. They are making an impact on my life in ways that I can never thank you enough for."

Our Mission Outreach team is proud of the ways First Lutheran has supported our missionaries while they served in the ELCA's global mission and when they have returned to the United States from that service.



NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Happy July!

Even though school is out, Mrs. Lora and I have been busy. Ms. Lora has been painting her center room and rearranging things the way she wants it. I have been going through filing cabinets, taking down wall decorations and getting organized. We are both super excited for next year!

Most of you know, but for those who don't, I have accepted the position of Head Pre-K teacher and Lead Teacher of the Preschool staff. Mrs. Lora has accepted the Head Teacher 3 & 4-year old preschool classroom position. Mrs. Sonya was going to stay and assist me, but some of her family needed her at this time and family comes first. She will continue to substitute for us. This means that we need an assistant for Pre-K and Mrs. Lora's room. We already have many resumes coming in and so we will be doing interviews soon.

We have a few student openings in Pre-K and the Preschool classes. Please get the word out that Mrs. Lora and I are passionate about teaching them about God. We are determined to teach tons of skills that work on their fine motor, gross motor, build their vocabulary, develop the love of reading and writing, be creative in the arts, singing & dancing, fall in love with science, and so much more. I have 8 years of kindergarten knowledge to help me get your child ready for kindergarten! I want those kindergarten teachers to ask, "Where did your child go to preschool, because they are so well rounded and succeeding at such a high level?"

We are blessed to work in such a wonderful Christian environment and look forward to what God has in store for us here at First Lutheran Preschool!

Please call or text me at 308-240-0872
or email at amandalewis@firstlutheran Kearney.org with any questions!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Lora

Preschool has a few more openings for the 2021-2022 school year. Contact Kandy with any questions at (308) 237-5544.

JULY (and August) CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

NIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE: QUEST FOR THE KING'S ARMOR

MONDAY, JULY 12 - THURSDAY, JULY 15

6:00 – 8:00 PM

THURSDAY NIGHT PARENT PROGRAM

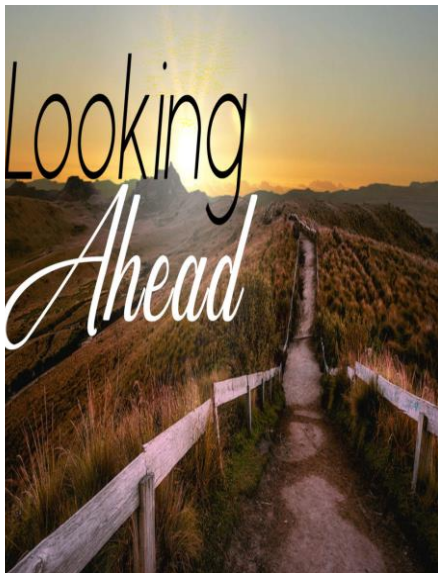
8:00 – 8:30 PM



Confirmation Orientation

August 18, 2021

Beginning of Wednesday Evening
Programs, FROG & Confirmation
on August 25, 2021



Aug 7th/8th – Blessing of the Backpacks

Aug 15th – Pastor Elisabeth's Installation @ 3:00pm

Aug 18th – Confirmation Orientation and FLY Kickoff

Aug 22nd –

At FLC: Installation of Sunday School Teachers/
Sunday School Begins

At Campus Lutheran: Worship Picnic for Blue-
Gold Weekend

Aug 25th -- Beginning of Wednesday Evening Programs

Aug 29th – Outdoor Worship at Dryden Park @ 10:30am
with a picnic to follow

First Lutheran Church, ELCA
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RECEIVING
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING
IN CHRIST

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 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