

# THE MESSENGER

## 1500-1520 and Our Lutheran Heritage

During the first twenty years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the world was being reshaped in many venues. The High Renaissance was in full swing. Da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa. Michelangelo sculpted his statue of David, and then for four years painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Work was begun on St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. Botticelli and Raphael were at the height of their careers. The Portuguese established colonies and trade centers in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and China. In China, it was the middle period of the Ming dynasty. The reign of Ivan the Great was drawing to a close in Russia. The Ottoman Turks extended their empire into Syria, Palestine, Iran, Egypt, and Arabia. At the end of this period, one of the greatest Ottoman emperors, Suleiman the Magnificent, began his forty-six-year reign. In the Western Hemisphere, Cortez completed his conquest of the Aztecs. The Inga empire was at its height in the Andes. Ponce De Leon claimed Florida for Spain. Cabot discovered Hudson Bay. The first Africa slaves were brought in. Balboa was the first European to sail into the Pacific Ocean. Magellan set up to sail around the world. Meanwhile, in England Henry VIII began his reign.

In the midst of all of these events, a little-known German priest and professor began to question some of the practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Though unnoticed by the greater world, on October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 theses for debate on the Church Castle door in Wittenberg. This is the date traditionally marked as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation which reshaped much of the world by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

For four Sundays in October (October 3, 10, 17, 24) we are going to rediscover our Lutheran Heritage in a class taught by Pastor Rick in Centennial all beginning at 9:50 a.m. We will examine the foundational events of the Reformation, the theological developments of Martin Luther, some of the core documents of Lutheranism, and then we will trace the spread of Lutheranism in the United States from the 1600s to today. In this way we will rediscover our central beliefs as Lutherans and how we got to where we are now as a Lutheran church (or as Lutheran churches). Coffee and donuts will be available so this October you are invited to come and rediscover our Lutheran heritage.

*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 October can be found:  
<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world.



<http://www.elca.org>  
 800-638-3522



<http://www.nebraskasynod.org>  
 402-896-5311



Lutheran World Relief

<http://www.lwr.org>  
 800-597-5972



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

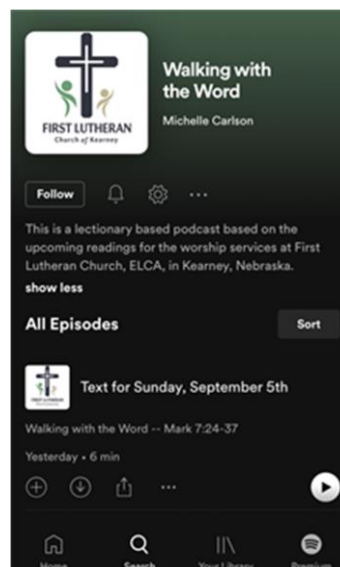


<http://www.nlom.org>  
 402-944-2544

**We have a podcast...**

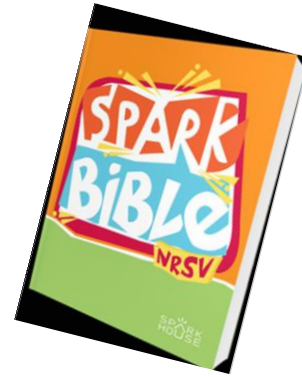
**Walking with the Word: A Brief  
 Lectionary Based Bible Devotion**

**You can find it on Apple  
 Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor,  
 Google Podcasts, Pocket Casts**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>  
8:45 A.M.



GET TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE CLASS  
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:50 A.M.  
FOR SECOND GRADERS  
AND THEIR PARENTS

Adult Sunday School  
Rediscovering our Lutheran Heritage  
Taught by Pastor Rick

Beginning October 3, 2021  
9:50am-10:50am  
Centennial Hall



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Sunday,  
October 3rd

1:00 PM

South  
Parking  
Lot

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Our Mission Outreach Team Thanks Members of First Lutheran

The 2021 Summer Project for the Mission Outreach Team was to raise \$500 by Labor Day for ELCA World Hunger. We did not just reach our goal; we exceeded by almost three times as members of First Lutheran donated a total of **\$1,486!** Thank you to all who participated in our efforts that all may be fed.



**CHILI &  
CINNAMON  
ROLL**  
**COOK/BAKEOFF**

**WED, OCT. 27 @ 5:30-6:45PM**  
**EAT: 5:30-6:30 | GAMES: 6:00-6:45**

**to enter:**  
email Dave Wright, [daveang99@gmail.com](mailto:daveang99@gmail.com)

**to vote:**  
peoples choice (tickets \$1/each)

**to play:**  
bring cereal or pasta to donate to  
Loper Pantry @ UNK  
**PROCEEDS BENEFIT FLY**

## Reformation Luncheon Sunday, October 31, 2021

*11:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall*

*Menu: Brats, and Pizza for the kiddos!*

*Please bring a side or a dessert to help us round  
the meal out.*



# COVID UPDATE FROM CONGREGATION COUNCIL

September 16, 2021

To the members of First Lutheran:

We want to give you an update on some recent church council decisions. COVID is still a very real thing and has recently been gaining momentum in our area. According to the Two Rivers Health Department, there has been nearly a 30% increase in cases per week since early August. While the Two Rivers dial is currently at the elevated level, it is almost at the pandemic range. Some of our church leaders recently visited with a doctor from Kearney Regional Hospital. Our leaders were informed by this doctor that our local hospitals are nearly full and our healthcare providers are being pushed to the limit. With this information in mind, the First Lutheran Congregation Council has decided to modify some of the procedures at First Lutheran.

***The following changes will be taking place:*** 1) *We will be spraying down the pews after each service.* 2) *The children will not be asked to come forward for the children's sermon. Noisy Offering buckets can be found alongside the collection plates at the sanctuary entrances.* 3) *The following positions will be wearing masks: worship leaders, assisting ministers, acolytes, communion servers, members of all choirs/singing groups, musicians, ushers, Sunday school teachers, and FROG leaders.* 4) ***Mask wearing by congregation members is highly recommended.*** *We will review these decisions at the next church council meeting in October.*

We want to keep things as "normal" as possible, but we feel certain modifications are appropriate at this time. We know that these decisions will not be popular with everyone. Some people will say that we are not doing enough. Some people will say that we are overreacting and doing too much. There is so much uncertainty when it comes to COVID. Who is vaccinated and who is not? Who has the antibodies and who does not? What about the freedom to choose? What about looking out for your neighbor? It can be very challenging to balance all of this. None of us have been trained to handle some of these situations. We simply try to do the best we can with the information that we have.

We pray for your grace and understanding for both the council and the pastors as we continue to navigate the unknown. These are challenging times for a lot of people. Let us not forget our mission at First Lutheran: "Receiving God's Grace. Sharing God's Love. Uniting in Christ."

Peace to All,  
First Lutheran Congregation Council

## HELPING OTHERS



### Lutheran World Relief

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 bar of soap, 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 in the coffee area for donations.

LWR Packing Day is Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us.

### Jubilee Center

Are you interested in helping out at the Jubilee Center? They are looking for volunteers, contact Cheri Clark for more information. Needing some extra food; but short on funds? On Wednesdays after 11:00 a.m. the Jubilee center hands out boxes of fruits and veggies (12-15 pounds). Anyone can come to the food pantry and sign in with their first name and the number in their household to receive a box. The center normally receives about 75 boxes; through December 2021 and donated by the Omaha Food Bank. There is also a Rescue Food section to pick up items donated by local businesses.

Are you interested in helping donate food? Their current pantry needs are: canned chicken or tuna, spaghetti, baked beans, soups, granola bars, healthy wrapped snacks dish soap & diapers. The free community dinners are canceled through the end of 2021. The food pantry has helped 309 local households and has paid 33 utility payments, 9 rent payments. Contact the Jubilee Center at (308) 234-3880 or [info@kearneyjubilee.org](mailto:info@kearneyjubilee.org) for more information.

# 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

## AUGUST FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Aug 2021	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 51,527	\$ 139,231	\$ 116,059
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (58,696)	\$ (176,756)	\$ (163,495)

Total 2021-2022 Ministry Budget: \$788,736.95

Facilities Budget:	Aug 2021	YTD '21-'22	YTD '20-'21
Revenue	\$ 7,557	\$ 18,852	\$ 16,870
Expenditures	\$ (2,142)	\$ (10,211)	\$ (6,458)

Total 2021-2022 Facilities Budget: \$30,000

# VANCO

FAITH

## GIVING OPTIONS

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

**VANCO Faith:** 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 Vanco Mobile 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!



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

# COUNCIL UPDATE

Hello from Council,

I don't know. I wonder how many times this has been my response to a question the past 18 months. A lot of the questions have centered around getting back to a more normal way of doing the procedural things in the church. My "I don't know" response is not a cop out, it's simply the truth. In my Messenger article two months ago, I mentioned that we were moving in the direction of relative stability and in fact, we were. Then the Delta variant started to rear its ugly head. Our church leadership has spoken to local doctors and our local hospitals are filling up again and Covid numbers are on the rise. We must be mindful of this.

I watch a lot of high school, college and professional football this time of year. It's interesting that all teams have the same purpose. They want to score points. However, they don't all use the same process. Some teams run the ball more. Some teams pass the ball more. Some implement a balance of both. However, once they score the process doesn't really matter, because they accomplished their purpose. Right now, our process for receiving communion is different than it used to be. However, the purpose of communion is still the same. Our process for collecting the offering right now is different. However, the purpose for our offering is still the same. It's frustrating for all of us, that our processes have been modified. This does not mean that our purpose as First Lutheran Church has been modified. As we continue to navigate some uncertain waters, I will probably continue to say, "I don't know" for certain questions. However, there is one thing that I do know and that is the members of First Lutheran can find unity in purpose. Let us not forget our purpose at First Lutheran: "Uniting as one to worship God, to follow Christ and to share the spirit of love and service to others."

In other council news, we are still in the process of trying to fill the Office Manager position. We are also starting to get some information from the Capital Campaign Committee. They continue to look through feedback from our members regarding the potential church renovation project. Thank you to all who were able to attend one of the informational meetings and for sharing your thoughts, ideas and opinions.

Peace to all  
Dave Zimmer, Council President



## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Dave Zimmer  
*President*

Miranda  
Obermeier  
*Vice President*

Lee Fritson  
*Treasurer*

Judy Henning  
*Secretary*

Mark Kottmeyer

Rachel Leach

Michael  
Rafferty

Kelly  
Russman

Kim Troudt

### 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

**October 3, 2021**

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 8; HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:5-12; MARK 10:2-16

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are finding off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

**October 10, 2021**

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

AMOS 5:6-7, 10-15; PSALM 90:12-17; HEBREWS 4:12-16; MARK 10:17-31

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life; sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

**October 17, 2021**

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 91:9-16; HEBREWS 5:1-10; MARK 10:35-45

Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.

**October 24, 2021**

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

JEREMIAH 31:7-9; PSALM 126; HEBREWS 7:23-28; MARK 10:46-52

Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as the "Son of David" he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won't give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you?"

**October 31, 2021**

REFORMATION DAY

JEREMIAH 31:31-34; PSALM 46; ROMANS 3:19-28; JOHN 8:31-36

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-charging world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.



# GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS



All of the many helping hands that assisted with the God's Work Our Hands putting together care kits, school kits, and baby kits. Thank you to all of the children and adults who helped with this project. We couldn't do this without you!



## God's Work, Our Hands

**A dedicated day of service in our community!**

Thank you to all who selflessly volunteered their time and talents! We had over 40 volunteers between Campus Lutheran and the Jubilee Center. Both organizations appreciate you tremendously!

**YOU are a blessing!**



## Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

The family and friends of Pearl Baumgartner.

The family and friends of Jodi Bebensee, Jim Jelkin's sister.

The family and friends of Don & Lisa Parish on the death of Don's father, Hal Parish.

The family and friends of Leonard & Lisa Fowler on the death of Linda's father, Ronald Carlson.

The family and friends of Jeanette Andersen on the death of her husband, Jim Andersen.

The family and friends of Mark & Heidi Andersen on the death of Mark's father, Jim Andersen.



## Congratulations to our October Volunteers of the Month: The Worship Life Team!

The members of this team are Nancy Darling, John Love, Andrew Obermeier, Carrie Stithem, Jan Welch, Natalie Radcliffe, Kim Troudt (Council Representative), Pastor Rick Carlson and Pastor Michelle Carlson.

According to our congregation's constitution, this team's mission is to facilitate, support, evaluate and implement all aspects of worship, to the glory of God. Celebrating God's abiding presence and faithfulness, and moving towards God's promised fulfillment, this congregation shall seek to proclaim faithfully the love of God in Word and Sacrament. This team shall be responsible for, but not limited to the following areas of ministry: altar guild; paraments and banners; musicians and music needs; worship personnel including lectors, communion assistants, nursery attendants, assisting ministers, acolytes, greeters and ushers. The team shall also be responsible for care and maintenance of vestments, liturgical cloths, and metal ware.

During COVID, this team has thought carefully about the most responsible ways to worship as "normally" as possible while still being responsible. This is a difficult tension, and one that has required much conversation. As well, they have been working on the duties of ushers as those have been fluid during this time.

Thank you, Worship Life!

# WOMEN of the ELCA

The Women of the E.L.C.A. are committed to Mission Growth - programs and events which are of interest to women, Mission Action - taking care of Lutheran World Relief donations, such as quilts, school backpacks, kits for personal care and infant care and Mission Outreach - reaching out to new members to help them feel welcome at First Lutheran. Thank you to Judy Workman who served as President of Women of the ELCA the last three years and Lil Larson who joined her the last two years. You ladies did a great job of leading our organization.

The Helping Hands committee tends to the Baptism banners, upkeep of the linens, and prayer shawls. They also help to coordinate workgroups for funerals, church meetings and events at First Lutheran. MEN are welcome to join the workgroups and help cook, serve and clean-up for these various events. If you are interested in being a part of a workgroup, contact Lil Larson or Rosemary Miller. We are also in need of chairs for workgroups. There is a manual to help you in planning and prepping for the funeral. If you would be willing to serve as a workgroup chair, contact Lil Larson. Thank you for your service.

If you brought in a dish recently for a funeral, please remember to collect the dish you brought it in. There is quite a pile accumulating and we need to get the items back to their owners. The bowls are in the south kitchen or will be out in the sanctuary between services. Any items not collected by October 20th will be taken to the Jubilee Center.

You can still bring in items for the school backpack kits, personal health kits, and infant care kits. There are lists for each kit by the donation box in the coffee area. If you wish to donate any items for these kits, please have it to the church by October 24th, so they can be put in kits and packed up on November 1. These kits go overseas and help provide the necessary items for those who would not otherwise have these items. Packing day for Lutheran World Relief is November 1. Men are very much needed to help move all the boxes.

## Upcoming Events for 2021

**October 1-3 - Nebraska Synodical Women's Convention and Gathering at Camp Carol Joy Holling**

**November 1 - 9:00am - Lutheran World Relief Packing Day – Fellowship Hall**

**November 1 - 7:00 - WELCA Board Meeting Classroom 21 & 22**

**Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

(1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV)



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.

**President:**

**Deb Schauer (308) 233-2669**

**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: Judy Workman

**NAOMI CIRCLE**

7:30pm—4th Thursday

(3rd Thurs. in Nov.)

Chair: Judy Niemann

(308)-234-4332

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ELISABETH

Dear First Lutheran,

In youth group last week, we ended our time together by each lighting a candle and standing in a circle, each of us saying our baptismal (first and middle) names before closing in prayer. This was to remind each of us, and ourselves, that we are beloved children of God.

Our focus on Wednesday nights has been on loving ourselves because God loves us, and responding to God's extravagant love for us by loving our neighbor.

In trusting God and responding this way, we are also reminded that church is a brave space to share the real needs of our heads and hearts. And because church is about authentic community, I share these mental health facts because the world is messy → → → and we need to be able to talk about the real ways our mental health is affected in these strange days of ongoing pandemic, decision fatigue, division, and brokenness swirling around.

Parents, you have incredible children who are discovering who they are made to be – children of God who live in a messy world.

Youth, we are in this together. Love that is authentic and steeped in God is messy and hard.

May the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:9-19 (The Message paraphrase) be a reminder of who God creates and calls us to be:

*Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.*

*Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."*

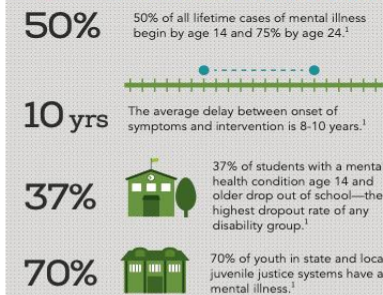
In hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth

## Mental Health Facts CHILDREN & TEENS

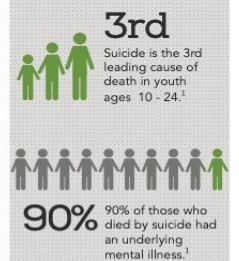
**Fact:** 1 in 5 children ages 13-18 have, or will have a serious mental illness.<sup>1</sup>



### Impact



### Suicide



### Warning Signs

- ⚠ Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than 2 weeks (e.g., crying regularly, feeling fatigued, feeling unmotivated).
- ⚠ Trying to harm or kill oneself or making plans to do so.
- ⚠ Out-of-control, risk-taking behaviors that can cause harm to self or others.
- ⚠ Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason, sometimes with a racing heart, physical discomfort or fast breathing.
- ⚠ Not eating, throwing up or using laxatives to lose weight; significant weight loss or gain.
- ⚠ Severe mood swings that cause problems in relationships.
- ⚠ Repeated use of drugs or alcohol.
- ⚠ Drastic changes in behavior, personality or sleeping habits (e.g., waking up early and acting agitated).
- ⚠ Extreme difficulty in concentrating or staying still that can lead to failure in school.
- ⚠ Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities like hanging out with friends or going to classes.

### 4 Things Parents Can Do

- Talk with your pediatrician
- Get a referral to a mental health specialist
- Work with the school
- Connect with other families

Follow Us!  
Facebook: facebook.com/officialNAMI  
Twitter: twitter.com/NAMIcommunicate

**NAMI**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
www.nami.org

# CAMPUS LUTHERAN FUNDRAISER UPDATE



What pure joy to have so many of you for wine, music, and great fun on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Campus Lutheran! Our spirits were indeed raised because of your presence and the presence of the Holy Spirit as we gathered with such merry hearts! With your generosity, our event raised \$7,000 for our ministry. There are not enough exclamation points to convey my awe and gratitude at the significance of this number, so I'll stick with simply ending the sentence with a full stop.

Thank you for sharing your gifts so graciously and so abundantly. My heart is full from seeing firsthand the ways in which you support the ministry of this place. I overheard our two students at the event remarking with awe the support they witnessed by your presence on Saturday night! *Thank you* does not seem sufficient enough to express our shared gratitude.

As you refill your glass in days to come, may this blessing continue to raise your spirits:

*Drink your wine with a merry heart!*

*May it connect you to God our Creator who promises "yes" and "amen."*

*May gratitude overflow for harvest and table, for connection and belonging.*

*May your five senses move you to celebrate the wonder of who God is.*

*May this full glass help us remember there is always more than we can imagine...*

*More wine to taste, more grace to give, more friends and strangers with whom we can share our joy. Taste and see the sweetness of God.*

With joy,  
Pastor Elisabeth

# FLY (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH)

## FLY October Calendar

3-Oct	Sunday	9:55am Bible Study & Breakfast (BSB)
6-Oct	Wednesday	7-8pm Youth Group
10-Oct	Sunday	9:55am BSB
13-Oct	Wednesday	NO FLY Group
17-Oct	Sunday	9:55am BSB
20-Oct	Wednesday	7-8pm Youth Group
24-Oct	Sunday	9:55am BSB
27-Oct	Wednesday	5:45-7:45pm Chili Cookoff & Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser
31-Oct	Sunday	12:30-2:30pm (No BSB) Participate in Trunk or Treat in Parking Lot

## ELCA Youth Gathering – COVID19 Update



**Our travel dates: Saturday, July 23 - Thursday, July 28**

### UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH GATHERING REGARDING COVID VACCINATIONS:

**After much prayer and conversation, Gathering leadership have decided to require full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test result (likely 72 hours before arrival) to attend the 2022 Gathering. As of now, leadership have not decided on any additional safety measures. We commit to continued transparency in the decision-making process and will release information as it becomes available regarding additional safety measures or adjustments to key dates. Any updates will be communicated via Gathering social media, gNews and our website.**

<https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19>

#### **From Pastor Elisabeth:**

While it's a strange time to be planning an event with 30,000 people gathered in one place, we are moving ahead with this trip for now. If the event is cancelled by the ELCA due to Covid, it is not clear whether the event will be rescheduled for 2023. However, your deposit will be fully refunded by First Lutheran and a *possible alternative trip* for summer 2022 will be made available during the same time.

**Please consider being fully vaccinated for this trip - for yourself and for all who plan to gather.**

If you are on the fence about registering due to Covid, please contact me for further conversation around accommodations and possibilities.

In God our only hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth

## October 31<sup>st</sup>

Sunday School: 9:30am  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Church Service: 10:30am  
Lunch: 11:45 am  
Trunk-Or-Treat: 12:45-2:15pm

## First Lutheran Church

*Please bring a hygiene product to donate to the UNK Loper Pantry*

**We need church members to bring a  
Trunk Display for our event!**

Parking & Set-Up 9am-12pm in Southeast parking lot. Please stay set-up for the entirety of the event. Plan for 250 trick-or-treaters. Pre-wrapped candies or trinkets work well (no homemade items please). Contact the church office or see [Firstlutherankearney.org](http://Firstlutherankearney.org) for more details.

*Please bring a hygiene product to donate to the UNK Loper Pantry*

Confirmation students will receive service hours for assisting with the event. Email Stefani Wegner ([StefaniDWegner@gmail.com](mailto:StefaniDWegner@gmail.com)) to volunteer.





## Fall 2021 Children's Music Schedule

- **Sunday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at the 11am service**
- **Sunday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – 8:45am service  
(Just come up to the choir loft a little before 8:45am)**
- **Saturday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ the 6pm service, Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>@ the 8:45am & the children will sing a few songs at the very beginning of the 11am Service. Then we can all go home!**

(Families are asked to come eat doughnuts and juice in between services on Sunday. There will be movies to watch, games to play, and activity pages to do with your child.)

?’s call, text 240-0872 or email Amanda [maryamandalewis5@gmail.com](mailto:maryamandalewis5@gmail.com)



# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Family,

The 3-4-year-old preschoolers showed up ready to learn! We already know how to line up and walk in a line, sit crisscross applesauce and raise our hand to ask a question or make a comment! We have had fun sharing things in nature, things we find at home, and with our class. We have had a praying mantis, cattails, milkweed, a cricket, blue tailed lizards, roly-poly, a snake, tadpoles, frogs and cicadas among other things. Our collection of cicada shells is at 94 on our way to 100! We got pretty tired counting that many numbers!

We have read about Noah's Ark and have talked about how God made us all the same, yet different and special. Check out our self-portraits in our hall. We made our family tree and discovered that God made a special family just for us! We are working on sharing and caring for others.

We have started working on some letters beginning with the letter L, T, and I, along with some numbers and shapes. We have started show and tell and are learning lots of new songs and the actions that go with them. The preschool day is just not long enough to do all that we want to do!!

When we all have a good day, the kids will get a rock for their rock collection. The kids love picking out a pretty rock and putting it in their egg carton container. If anyone would like to donate a few pretty rocks (stones) you would like to share with the preschool classroom we would be happy to have them for our incentives.

Happy Fall,

Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Lindi

Happy Fall to First Lutherans!

We have been busy! This is such a fun year seeing the growth from last year and watching them become more independent in their fine motor skills. Those hands have gotten so strong. They are so smart and we get tons done; because they listen so well!

These first couple weeks we have reviewed letters, numbers, months of the year, days of the week, shapes, colors, how to make tallies and we are even learning what a sentence looks like. They know a dot or period comes at the end of a sentence. The students have already 4 books in their book box that they can read all by themselves.

Our science center and art center seem to be the biggest hits for exploring. However, lots of kiddos love listening to books on tape, blocks center, math center and rice table as well.

We have learned about apples our A week, about balls and gravity our B week, cooking and cracking eggs our C week and fire safety with the firefighters our F week. So much fun is being had!

My theme this year is God's creation. I have been gradually adding a visual in the room for each creation day! They have their Spark Bible at home too. This way they can continue to learn about God with their family!

God Bless and enjoy my favorite month!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Jane

# OCTOBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



**Sundays in October** -- 9:50 a.m. "Study with Pastor Rick"  
Rediscovering our Lutheran Heritage (Centennial Hall)

**1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Weekends** – Laying on of Hands for Healing during Worship Services

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Bibles presented during the 8:45 a.m. service  
1:00 p.m. – Animal Blessing South Parking Lot

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup>** – Animal Blessing Rain date

**Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** – Chili Cookoff & Cinnamon Roll Contest  
6:00 p.m. Carnival Games in Sunday School Rooms  
6:50 p.m. Confirmation

**Oct 31<sup>st</sup>** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Unity Service – Reformation Sunday  
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. -- Worship  
11:45 a.m. -- Potluck  
12:45 p.m. Trunk or Treat – South East Parking lot



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RECEIVING  
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 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: KXPN 1460AM**

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

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