

# THE MESSENGER

I have been talking to some folks recently about how it feels like we are trying to cram everything we missed during 2020 into 2021. Instead of letting some things go, we seem to be making up for lost time. We are entering an already busy season, and now if we try to make up for some lost time, we may completely miss the whole meaning of the season.

Every year on Facebook, I seem to see this helpful list. Please note that I have adapted it slightly!

## Christmas To-Do List:

1. ~~Buy~~ **BE Present s**
2. ~~Wrap Gifts~~ **someone in a HUG (if they are ok with it)**
3. ~~Send Gifts~~ **PEACE**
4. ~~Shop for~~ **DONATE Food**
5. ~~Make Cookies~~ **LOVING choices and relationships**
6. ~~See~~ **BE the Light s**

No matter how hard we try, December is a month of doing, going, shopping, cooking and a very difficult month for just being. This list reminds us to be present, wrap others in hugs, send peace, donate food, making loving choices and relationships and be light to this very dark world for so many.

When we see the pain of sin in this world, we are reminded that it is up to each and every one of us to step forward and be present, hold those who are lonely, provide peace for those who live in chaos daily, donate food, time or clothing to those who don't even have the bare minimum, make choices that promote love and not hate and to be the light of Christ for those who can't see in the darkness that surrounds their lives.

Mother Theresa once said, "Do small things with great love." In this time of year where we feel we must do big things, let us all remember to bring a little light, a little human touch, a little presence, and a little love to the lives around us and throughout our broken world. For many little things add up to great things.

God's Peace,  
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 December 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



NLOM  
Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

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

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**Wednesday Nights 6:30pm**  
**Begins 12/1; Ends 12/22**

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00pm**

**Christmas Eve**

**5:00pm**  
**7:00pm**  
**11:00pm**

**Holy Communion**  
**at all services.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Order your poinsettias to be used for the decoration of our Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The plants are available for purchase for **\$15.00** per plant. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant to beautify our Sanctuary during this season, please mail or deliver the order form and payment to the church office by **8:00am Monday, December 6, 2021**.

## GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

First Lutheran Preschool will be participating in this year's Give Where you Live. The goal is to work towards more class hours and eventually go full-time. You can give anytime now through December 2, 2021. Go to [www.givewhereyoulive.net](http://www.givewhereyoulive.net) Type in First Lutheran in the search category and our Preschool button will show up. You can select to put your name or donate anonymous or in honor or memory of someone. Our goal is \$3,000, please donate and help! Thank you!



## COLLECTING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR FOOD BASKETS

Mission Outreach's Advent Project this year is collecting monetary donations to create food baskets for families in need. If you would like to contribute, there are boxes on the welcome stations. Thank you for thinking of others this Advent season.

## WORKERS NEEDED AT THE JUBILEE CENTER

The Jubilee Center needs more volunteers! If you have some time and energy to offer them, please contact Cheri Clark @ 308-234-3880 or [info@kearneyjubilee.org](mailto:info@kearneyjubilee.org).

# TIS THE SEASON FOR MUSIC

**MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL BELL CHOIR CONCERT**

# Blessed BY THE Bells

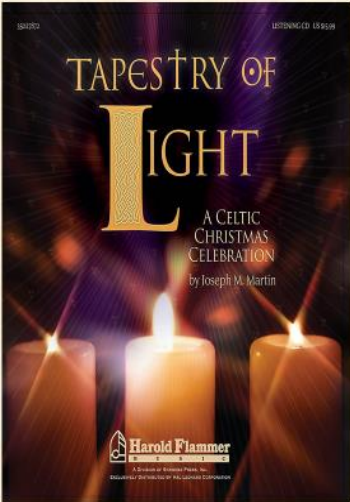
**SUNDAY | 7:00 PM**  
DECEMBER 5, 2021

Join us at the  
**MERRYMAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
225 W 22ND ST. • KEARNEY

*Participating Church  
Bell Choirs*

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST • FIRST LUTHERAN**  
*A free-will offering will be taken for the bell choirs of the above churches.*

**REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW**



**Tapestry of  
LIGHT**  
A CELTIC  
CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATION  
by Joseph M. Martin

**Chancel Choir  
Cantata**

**December 11/12, 2021  
All Three Services**



# HELPING OTHERS

## Jubilee Center

The Holiday Shop is open at Jubilee Center annex from 10 am to 4 pm. on Saturdays through the end of the year. Come look for items to enhance your Holiday decorations. There are several rooms of decorations, dishes and ornaments.

If you are replacing your artificial tree this season please consider donating it to Jubilee Center. Many buyers are looking for trees at reasonable prices.

Please remember Jubilee Center during *Give Where You Live* in December. Many people in need are helped every month by your generosity.



Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity...building homes in partnership with God's people in need.



At Habitat, we have a great opportunity to help families improve the quality of their lives and strengthen our community. Our work goes beyond providing affordable housing to families. We build relationships and neighborhoods that provide support and personal growth to individuals in need.

We are seeking **home-buyer applicants** for our 2022 build season. Do you know of a low-income family who may be interested in partnering with KAHFH that meets the following selection criteria?

- Housing need - based on the physical condition or the cost of their current housing
- Repayment ability - based on credit history, monthly debt obligations, and immigration status
- Ability to partner with KAHFH - selected families provide a minimum of 400 hours of sweat equity by working on the build site and attending home ownership training.

We are also seeking community minded individuals with passion for helping others to **serve on our board of directors**. Board member terms are for three years and can be extended for an additional three years. No construction experience is needed! Board member responsibilities and opportunities include:

- Attendance at monthly board meetings
- Join one of our working committees that direct the operations of our program. Working committees include: construction, finance, family selection, family support, public relations, church relations, fund raising, volunteer management, site selection, hospitality, and scholarship.
- Work directly with volunteers and partner families to make a difference in their lives and in our community



### The Power of Your Donation



Interested individuals can learn more about KAHFH on our website: [habitat.kearney.net](http://habitat.kearney.net) or by leaving a message at 308-234-6030. Donations can be sent to Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity, 1815 First Ave., Kearney, NE 68847. We are forever thankful for what you, our loyal supporters, have accomplished in the first 29 years of KAHFH and into the future!

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF 2021

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:

- 153 School Kits
- 51 Baby Care Kits
- 51 Personal Care Kits
- 76 Quilts
- 3 Fabric Kits

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits, Fabric 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! God Bless!

# 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

## OCTOBER FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Oct 2021	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 53,146	\$ 236,480	\$ 211,639
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (61,038)	\$ (295,062)	\$ (283,423)

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

Facilities Budget:	Oct 2021	YTD '21-'22	YTD '20-'21
Revenue	\$ 7,268	\$ 32,442	\$ 34,634
Expenditures	\$ (2,623)	\$ (15,531)	\$ (11,816)

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

# YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of 2021 approaches, please make note of our policy regarding year-end contributions. In order to be recorded on your contribution statement for the year 2021, contributions **MUST** be received in the church office **BEFORE 12:00 NOON on Friday, December 31.** If mailed, contributions must be clearly marked "Attn. Marti Brockmeier" and postmarked on or before December 31st.



# COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from Council,

I'm writing this approximately two weeks before Thanksgiving. In the United States, we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday on the fourth Thursday of November. It's only natural for us to be a little more thankful around this time of year. However, we don't have to limit our thanks or gratitude to a time of year. It can simply be a way of life.

Last January I started a gratitude journal. This was not my idea. It was actually the idea of one of my fellow coaches at the high school. The idea was to write down three things each day that I was thankful for. It could be anything. It could be a favorite food, a song, a person, a business, a memory, a good laugh, etc. I thought I would give the gratitude journal a try. I didn't anticipate sticking with it. However, I was wrong. I have literally written three things in my gratitude journal every single day since then.

This worthwhile idea that started out as a little experiment has really opened my eyes. First, it has made me realize just how much I have to be thankful for. Don't get me wrong. My life is far from perfect and I have experienced plenty of tough times in my life. However, when I can sit down each morning and list three new things that I'm thankful for, that can be pretty powerful. The second thing that really opened my eyes is how many times my daily gratitude has involved First Lutheran. I went back and looked and 82 of my days involved First Lutheran in some way. These included people, sermons, songs, meetings, celebrations and much more. According to my gratitude journal, I'm just a little bit thankful for a lot of things at the church that sits at 3315 Avenue G. When you do a daily gratitude journal, you realize just how much you have to be thankful for. First Lutheran is certainly toward the top of my list.

Sticking with the Thanksgiving theme, the church council decided at our November meeting that the collection from the special Thanksgiving offering will be designated for the Special Needs Fund. This is a very important part of our ministry at First Lutheran. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to this offering.

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

**December 5, 2021**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LUKE 1:68-79; PHILLIPPIANS 1:3-11;  
LUKE 3:1-6

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day. Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

**December 12, 2021**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 12:2-6; PHILLIPPIANS 4:4-7;  
LUKE 3:7-18

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news – and cause for exultation – for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

**December 19, 2021**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LUKE 1:46b-55; PSALM 80:1-7; HEBREWS 10:5-10; LUKE 1:39-45 [46-55]

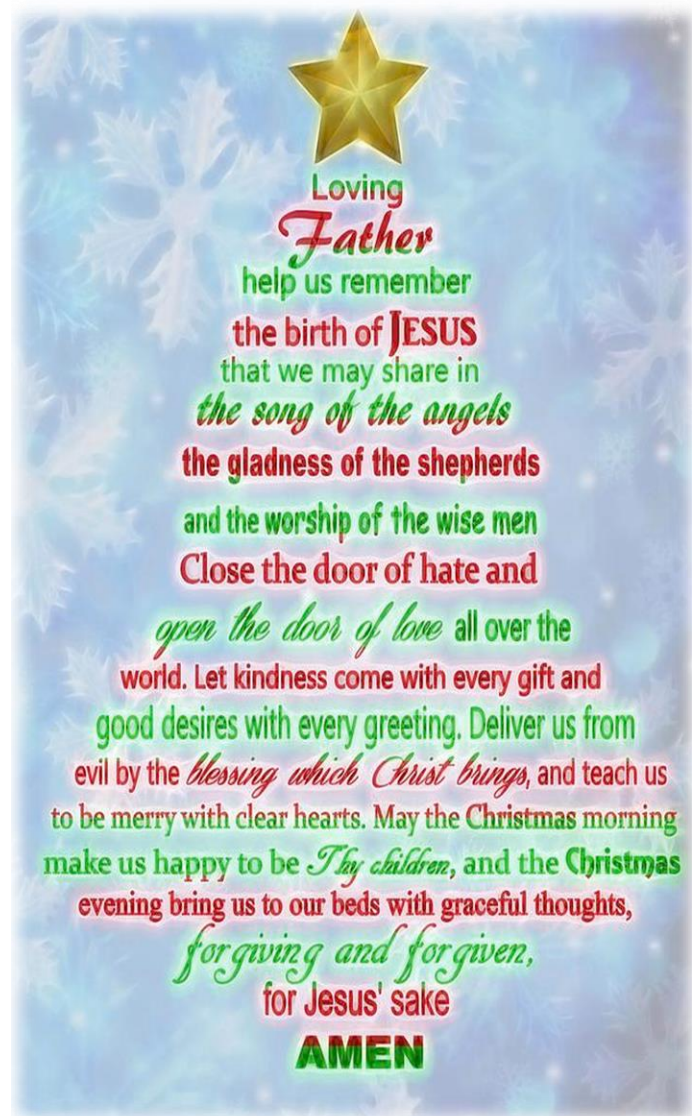
Cradle and cross are inextricably connected to the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion – with the high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death".

**December 26, 2021**

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52,

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your heart." It is Christmas still.





# WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST



## **Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...**

**Pastor Elisabeth on the death of her grandmother, Joyce Pynn.**

**Paul Norblade on the death of his wife, Judy.**

**LaVon McLane and family on the death of her husband, John.**

**The family and friends of Bobbi Gerdes on her death.**

**The family and friends of Doris Maurer on her death.**

**Myron & Diane Riddle on the death of their sister-in-law.**

**Dave & Renae Zimmer on the death of their Aunt Frances.**

## **Congratulations to our December Volunteers of the Month: The Stewardship Team!**

The members of this team are Randy Hinrichs, Brad Kernick, Dave Brandt, CJ Sabah, Jane Ziebarth-Bovill, Mark Kottmeyer, and Pastor Rick Carlson.

The Stewardship team helps plan the regular stewardship appeal. They help with the Time and Talent Inventory. Recently, they have been previewing an adult education course that will be offered to the whole congregation in the Fall of 2022 on Biblical Stewardship.

The Stewardship team is also coordinating a dinner for the congregation on January 30<sup>th</sup>. At this meal we will be celebrating the varied ministries of First Lutheran.

Thank you, Stewardship team!



# WOMEN of the ELCA

On Monday, November 8 women and men gathered to put kits together for Lutheran World Relief and then box them up. These kits and the quilts that have been made throughout the year will be delivered to Third World countries. There they will help life just a little better for those who receive them. We were able to send 153 school kits, 51 personal care kits, 51 baby care kits, 3 fabric kits, and 76 quilts. Thanks to everyone who helped box all the kits. A special thanks to Theress Bricker for spearheading the school and personal care kit making throughout the year and the labeling and boxing of all the items on packing day. Thanks to Alicia Tracy for organizing the baby care kits and to Sandy Pratt and the ladies who meet to sew and tie quilts. We would not be able to make such generous donations without your guidance and devotion to these projects.

There is a change to the yearly Women of the ELCA calendar. April 23rd will be the Southern Prairie Spring Conference where we Gather Gladly for Strength. It will be at Spirit of Grace Church in Holdrege. Pastor Elisabeth will be the guest speaker. April 30th will be the First Lutheran Spring event which is yet to be decided.

The next Women of the ELCA board meeting will be on January 3rd in Classrooms 21/22 beginning at 7:00.

All women of First Lutheran are invited to attend the Women of ELCA Christmas brunch.

## Upcoming Events for 2021

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.**

Christmas Coffee  
at First Lutheran Church in  
Fellowship Hall  
*Home for the Holidays*

**Guest Speaker – Ken Mumm**  
***History of Habitat for Humanity***

Beth Forbess will talk about the role of First Lutheran at Habitat for Humanity.

This will be a great time of fun, food and fellowship.



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

My 96-year old grandmother, Joyce Pynn, died last month. I had the honor of visiting her in October, near Walnut Creek, CA where I was born and raised. I hadn't been to Northern California (NorCal) in four years, and my heart flooded with memories of growing up there. As I held the grief of, I wrote this reflection. I share it here as a meditation on the Advent season we have entered: a time of hopeful longing, a time of lengthening shadows, a time of great anticipation of Jesus' birth – in whom we have our only hope.

In resurrection hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth



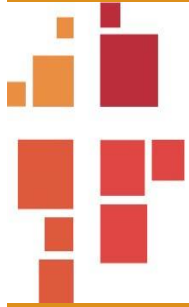
Here in the golden hills of NorCal  
It's like every fall I remember  
70 degrees, clear blue skies, everyone praying for rain.  
Driving by the schools, neighborhoods,  
and soccer fields of my youth I remember well this place that  
formed me:

The winding roads of the Diablo foothills, where I perfected the manual transmission; Castle Rock Park where I may have spent some time ditching senior English class. The perfect TOGOS salami and provolone, eaten in the Encina Grande parking lot where my girlfriends and I hoped to catch a glimpse of our latest crush on a Friday night. The traffic on Ygnacio Valley Road, the hours spent at Broadway Plaza, the sawdust floor at Skipolinis Pizza where I had my first date.

Here in the golden hills of NorCal  
I hold the hand of my dying grandmother,  
wishing for one more trip with her to JCPenney for a new fall outfit.  
I wonder if she remembers that I chipped the foot of her porcelain (life size!) cat when I was 8?  
There are romance novels at her bedside, next to her Bible, bookmarked in 1 Samuel.  
Hannah's Song. Did she leave off there? Did Hannah's story have special meaning to her?  
So many questions.

So, I open another cup of tapioca pudding,  
add thickener to her water and find a bendy straw.  
I offer it and she sips, perhaps both of us  
wishing it was a Fenton's Banana Split we could share.  
She asks, "where's everybody else?"  
And I tell her again.

There is life  
And death  
In these golden hills of NorCal.



CAMPUS  
LUTHERAN

# Thank You

for all who support our ministry with  
food, finances, and prayer!



# FLY (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH)

## FLY BRUNCH & SILENT AUCTION

celebrate & support First Lutheran Youth!

**Auction Donations (new items or handmade): To church office now - Sun, Nov. 2**

**Brunch & Bidding: Sunday, Dec. 12 @9:30-11am in Centennial Hall, Free-Will Offering**

IN DEC:

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP @ 6:30PM

FOLLOWED BY FLY @ 7-8PM

DEC 1: "BOUNDLESS LOVE" ~ GETTING READY MEETING FOR '22 YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANTS (ALL ARE WELCOME)

DEC 8: SILENT AUCTION PREP/DECORATING

DEC 15: WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

DEC 22: MOVIE NIGHT UNTIL 10PM

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT/SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

## CONFIRMATION REMINDER

Just a reminder that students need 8 worship notes and 3 service opportunities which are due by December 31, 2021. Worship Notes can be completed from online services, attending different churches, and Advent services on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School Resumes  
Sunday, January 9, 2022

Confirmation, Feeding the Flock and FROG  
all resume on  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022



## Children's Music Schedule

- 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,

We have been very busy in the 3–4-year-old classroom. In chapel we have been learning about “All God’s Promises in the B-I-B-L-E”. We are realizing how blessed we are as we prepare for Thanksgiving. We are also practicing our Christmas songs for the upcoming program.

We had a wonderful Halloween party with some great costumes and plenty of fun and games. We also celebrated our dads with Daddy Donut Day and had fun playing Duck, Duck, Goose with the them. The dads found out that some of our preschoolers are very fast and take this game seriously!!

We had a bear themed week and went on a bear hunt with our flashlights. We learned about hibernation and camouflage. Also, our decomposing pumpkin looks like someone dumped a pile of snow on it as the mold is so thick and white! Don’t worry, we are keeping the lid on tight!

We are eagerly awaiting the advent season! Baby Jesus is so much fun to focus on for these preschoolers and so relatable to them. We feel very blessed to have the support of the First Lutheran parishioners and pray you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

God Bless,  
Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Lindi

Hello December!

We have been continuing to learn letters, letter sounds, words and even learning what a sentence looks like. We have been learning about insects, sea creatures, land creatures and Thanksgiving. We have been reading our letter books. Books such as “Hippo Hop” for the letter H, “Katy the Kangaroo”, and “Jungle Jim”. They are in a coloring contest for the veterans and these color pages will be displayed at the Veteran’s home soon.

We have been continuing to learn letters, letter sounds, words and even learning what a sentence looks like. We have been learning about insects, sea creatures, land creatures and Thanksgiving. We have been reading our letter books. Books such as “Hippo Hop” for the letter H, “Katy the Kangaroo”, and “Jungle Jim”. They are in a coloring contest for the veterans and these color pages will be displayed at the Veteran’s home soon. We have kiddos with excellent coloring skills. Their fine motor skills are getting so strong.

They love exploring the science center and art center. They are learning how to measure with string and rulers. They are learning to juggle and balance with bean bags. They are hammering golf tees into a big pumpkin. They explored insects, sea creatures with toys and books and same for land animals. What has also been fun is seeing how much they love the art center! They are cutting, gluing, drawing, writing words and creating so many beautiful things. It been fun to watch! I have been assessing students on letters and letters sounds. They know so much and in fact most of them know all or close to all of them!

We loved our late October field trip to Dmilaco. The students had a blast making their own t-shirt and was able to put it on in just a few short minutes after making them. They got to sing some songs and Denny, the owner, sang a couple of songs to us! Then we went to the Trails and Rails Museum in November. We learned a lot about life in the late 1800s. It was chilly outside; but the kiddos did great!

We started a speaker of the month. and we had a pediatrician come. She taught them so much about what a doctor does. She also had hands on fun with rubber gloves, stethoscopes and everyone got to have crayons, color pages and stickers to learn more about being a doctor. It was a so cool! Soon we will learn about speech therapy and vision in the morning and a nurse will come in the afternoon to talk about first aid! We are so blessed to have great parents to teach our students about possible job ideas and how important each career is in our community!

Have a very Merry Christmas!  
Mrs. Amanda and Mrs. Jane



# DECEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Coffee in Fellowship Hall hosted by Women's ELCA

**December 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>** – *Tapestry of Light* by Chancel Choir all three services

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** – FLY Holiday Brunch/Silent Auction

**December 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>** – *Away from the Manger* Children's Christmas Program; Saturday @ 6pm, Sunday @ 8:45am with songs only @ 11am

**December 19<sup>th</sup>** – Blue Christmas Service – 3:00pm

**December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)** – 5:00pm/7:00pm/11:00pm worship

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** – “Merry Christmas!” from the church staff; no Saturday night service

**December 26<sup>th</sup>** – *Lessons and Carols for Christmas* with Holy Communion at 8:45am and 11:00am



## SPECIAL SERVICES

Advent Services begin Wednesday Nights beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. These services will end on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Children will be performing their Christmas Program during service times on Saturday and Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>. We would love to have you come and celebrate with them and be uplifted by the joy God has provided.

A Blue Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. This is for anyone who has lost a family member or a loved one.

### **Christmas Worship Services**

#### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 11:00 PM

All with Holy Communion

**No service on Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 AM, 11:00 AM

# ELCA GOOD GIFTS



Are you stumped on what to buy that “difficult to shop for person”? Consider purchasing one of the many items found on the ELCA Good Gifts Website. You can choose an eCard, a PDF download, a customized card or even a blank card so you can write your sentiments inside. This not only provides support for a family to receive an ongoing supply of protein rich meals; but can also help them start a small business and generate a steady source of income.

*\*Please note the cards are only available when you give online. [www.goodgifts.elca.org](http://www.goodgifts.elca.org)*

What can a small donation purchase? Your choice of: a group of three chicks, a fruit seedling tree, a blanket, a mosquito net, a clinic visit for a child, school supplies for a child, help stock a backpack with food, a bible, a rooster, honeybees, mosquito nets for a family, or help feed 10 people at a soup kitchen. Ornament trees can be found in the Narthex and in the Café Area of First Lutheran Church.

You can contact them directly at 1-800-638-3522, mail your check payable to “ELCA Good Gifts”, to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, PO BOX 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

First Lutheran Church, ELCA  
3315 G Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847-3699

Non-Profit Org.  
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Kearney, NE 68847

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RECEIVING  
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 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