

# THE MESSENGER

## Birthday Destinations

A few years ago around my birthday, I was asked the question: “Where was the most interesting place you ever spent your birthday?” At the time, I didn’t give it too much thought and probably responded, “Wherever I am on my birthday.” Lately, I have given that question a bit more thought. I have spent the majority of my birthdays wherever I was living in the United States. Not unusual. Probably so have most of you. Hence, I have spent birthdays in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska. I have come to realize that I have also spent a number of my birthdays outside the United States. The reason for this is simple; while I was teaching at the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, January was global travel month. Since my birthday is in January and since I escorted students on a number of those January trips, I have spent my birthday in various foreign locations such as Rome and Mexico City.

I have also spent three of my birthdays in Canakkale, Turkey. You have probably never heard of Canakkale, but it is an important city in Turkey with a population of over 325,000. Canakkale sits at the southern entrance to the Dardanelles which is the major waterway leading from the Mediterranean Sea through Istanbul to the Black Sea. Canakkale also sits at the western edge of the continent of Asia. If you take a 20-minute ferry to the other side of the Dardanelles, you will find yourself on the eastern edge of the continent of Europe. The site of the famed ancient city of Troy is about 20 miles from Canakkale. In fact, the Trojan horse that was used in the 2004 film “Troy” is on display in Canakkale.

I have also spent four of my birthdays in Tiberius, Israel which is a large city on the Sea of Galilee. On one of those birthdays, our tour group spent the day driving all across northern Galilee, and that is when I was able to view Mount Hermon. You might wonder what is so interesting about that. Mount Hermon sits right where the borders of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon come together. It is over 9,000 feet high and is one of the highest mountains in the Middle East. The snow-melt from Mount Hermon helps form the headwaters of the Jordan River which flows all the way down to the Dead Sea. The view of snow-covered Mount Hermon totally dominates the landscape of northern Israel. But there is a catch to viewing Mount Hermon. For most days in a given year, Mount Hermon is completely shrouded in clouds formed by warm air coming off the Mediterranean Sea which hits the cold elevated air surrounding the mountain. In fact, while I have been to Israel six times, I have only seen Mount Hermon on three separate days. But that birthday, it was absolutely clear and visible for over 70 miles away. Psalm 133 even uses the dominance of Mount Hermon to celebrate the unity of God’s people:

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

So, what is the most interesting place you have ever spent your birthday?

Pastor Rick

Pastor Michelle and me on my birthday with Mount Hermon in the background.



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Prayer Ventures for January can be found:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

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



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



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



Lutheran World Relief

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



LUTHERAN  
CAMPUS MINISTRY

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



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

## UPDATE

YOUR CONTACT INFO



It is time to update your information. Please contact the church if you have changed your email, address, phone number. It only takes a minute, and it is extremely helpful to the church office. Thank you!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POINSETTIAS

The last day to pick up poinsettias from the church is January 7th. Thank you!



## GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

First Lutheran Preschool has received over \$7,500 in gift money. We are completely in awe of your generosity and donations! We can't even begin to let you know how much this means to the Preschool. Thank you all!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible study will begin on January 5, 2022. We will start off the year with a 6-week study of the Book of Hebrews.

## Adult Education Class: "God's Fiery Prophets—Part 1"

In January through March 2022, Pastor Rick will offer a two-part course on God's Fiery Prophets. The first part of the course will focus on the prophet Elijah while the second part of the course will examine his successor, the prophet Elisha. Part 1 on Elijah will be meet at 9:50 a.m. in Centennial Hall on Sundays January 9, 16, 30 and will especially cover the presentation of Elijah's career as God's fiery prophet as presented in 1 Kings 17 through 2 Kings 1. These sessions will be recorded and posted on our church's website in case you are not able attend every class session. The Part 2 class on Elisha will begin in late February.



## THURSDAY EVENING MEALS

The Jubilee Center has decided that there will be no Thursday evening free meals during the first quarter of 2022 because of continuing concerns regarding COVID. We want to thank all of the church families and volunteers who helped with this meal in the past.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Chris and Ashlea Denton, Henry, Lena and Mina



John Gosswein



Lathan Ellis and Madison Bittfield



Taylor and Kelsey Reynolds



Tony and Jazzymn Martin  
Bentley and Taycen



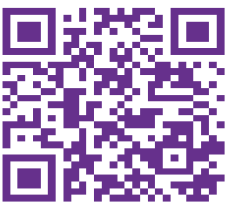
# HELPING OTHERS



## Wish List Winter 2021

### Provide Survivors a Helping Hand

Trash Bags	Baby Wipes
Shampoo (Adult/Baby)	Conditioner
Laundry Soap	Deodorant
Diapers Size 5 & 6	Body Wash
Pull Ups Size 2T & 3T	Lotion
Bath Towels	Paper Plates
All Purpose Cleaner	Toilet Paper
Paper Towels	Dish Soap
Dishwasher Soap	Tampons
Canned or Boxed Food	Dish Sets
Fresh Produce and Meat	Hand Soap
Cookware Pots & Pans	Hair Products
Microwavable Food	Toothpaste



**The S.A.F.E. Center**  
620 E. 25th St. Suite 14  
Kearney, NE 68847  
308-237-2599  
[www.safecenter.org](http://www.safecenter.org)  
[www.facebook.com/safecenter](https://www.facebook.com/safecenter)

### What Are Habitat volunteers doing in winter?

Soon after the holidays the first meeting of the Building Committee will be held to layout a tentative schedule for the coming season and to clean, sort, repair equipment and tools from the last year. The warehouse will be organized so that walls for the three new houses can be built. Which lots will be developed this year? Where will the large trailer/cook shack and the smaller tool trailer be placed? Meanwhile, Jerry Marlatt will be looking for sources of building materials and ordering appliances for the new houses.

The steep cost of new materials has caused much concern. This determines the goals of the Fund-Raising Committee. We thank the individuals and organizations here in the Kearney area who have been very generous. The first concern for any year is "Who are our new homeowners going to be?" What size family? What financial resources do they have? Who will be their support partners? Who will be the volunteers who step up to help with the building process? Covid has curtailed our volunteer list, but there are still individuals and small groups who are working every summer to finish houses. Groups continued to bring meals the Saturday volunteers. Thank you to the many members of First Lutheran Church who support our mission with prayer, donations, meals and volunteer hours for Saturday volunteers.

## JUBILEE CENTER NEWS

The Jubilee Staff and volunteers want to thank donors of the 2021 Give Where you Live campaign for raising over \$23,000 in support of its programs. We appreciate the support you give us in so many ways, time as volunteers, donations of goods and services, service on the Board of Directors and word of mouth to others in the community.

# 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

## NOVEMBER FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Nov 2021	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 46,575	\$ 283,055	\$ 264,409
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (58,496)	\$ (353,558)	\$ (341,526)

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

Facilities Budget:	Nov 2021	YTD '21-'22	YTD '20-'21
Revenue	\$ 7,175	\$ 39,617	\$ 41,732
Expenditures	\$ (1,076)	\$ (16,607)	\$ (12,176)

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

## USE OF OFFERING ENVELOPES

Thank you for all those who regularly make use of the weekly offering envelopes. It may not be possible to keep an accurate recording of your contributions if you do not use your envelopes. If you choose to contribute by check without using the envelopes, please write your offering envelope number on your check. This will enable us to record your contributions accurately. Any loose checks that are received without an envelope number may not be reflected on your contribution statement.

Contributions to the Ministry Budget and Facilities Budget can be combined in one check.

If you are not receiving offering envelopes and would like some, please contact Marti in the church office. Thank you for your help!

## FLC Veteran's Memorial Wall

Efforts to update and refurbish the FLC Veteran's Memorial will begin in the near future. Stacy Bean, Meressa Bayley, Wayne Karschner and Mike Rafferty will oversee this endeavor. Stay posted to church media for further information. The campaign will officially launch in January 2022. Thank you!



# COUNCIL UPDATE

Happy New Year from Council,

I wake up early every day. Most days I'm up and at 'em by 4:30 a.m. This is without an alarm clock. I know, it's crazy. I've had plenty of people tell me this. It's just how my body has programmed itself. So, what do I do at this insane time of day? Without a doubt, coffee comes first. I then catch a few minutes of SportsCenter and then it's time for the morning walk. The walk isn't necessarily my idea. Sadie is demanding it. Sadie is our big, spoiled lab and she loves her morning walk. The walk actually serves two purposes: One, it keeps Sadie happy. Two, I use this as my morning prayer time. One nice thing about walking at 5:00 a.m., it's amazingly quiet and peaceful. Thus, my prayer time. One of the things I say every morning in prayer is, "Thank you for the opportunities and possibilities that this new day brings."

As we embark on a new calendar year, I can't help but think of the opportunities and possibilities this new year brings to us at First Lutheran. We will have opportunities to grow in our faith. We will have opportunities to welcome new members. We will have opportunities to continue planning the future of First Lutheran. We will have opportunities for fellowship and we will have opportunities to serve one another, the community of Kearney and people all across our country and world. Yes, we will also be faced with challenges and roadblocks. However, within every challenge there is also the possibility to learn and grow.

Together, let's cherish and seek the opportunities that lie before us. When we come together and do that, then who knows what the possibilities are for First Lutheran.

On behalf of the church council, I wish all of you the best in 2022!

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

Kyle Means

### Have questions?

If you want to speak to a council member, please contact the office or find their information in the Narthex on the wall.

## The Election of a New Bishop for the Nebraska Synod

On November 22, Bishop Maas announced that he will be leaving the office of Bishop to take a new call as Vice President for Mission and Spiritual Care at Immanuel Vision Foundation, one of Nebraska Synod's Serving Arms ministries. His call as Bishop will end on August 31, 2022.

At the next Nebraska Synod Assembly (June 2-4, 2022 in Kearney), there will be an election for a new Bishop to serve a six-year term. First Lutheran will have eight delegates at this Assembly (our three pastors and five lay delegates to be elected by the Congregation Council). In advance of the Synod Assembly, each Conference of the Nebraska Synod will gather on February 5<sup>th</sup> for a meeting to nominate potential candidates for the Office of Bishop. The delegates who attend this advanced nominating meeting are to be the same delegates who attend the June Synod Assembly. At its January 2022 meeting, our Congregation Council will be electing the lay delegates from First Lutheran so that they are able to attend both the advance Nominating Meeting and the Synod Assembly.

# WORSHIP THEMES

**January 2, 2022**

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JEREMIAH 31:7-14; SIRACH 24:1-12; PSALM 147:1-12; EPHESIANS 1:3-14; JOHN 1:[1-9] 10-18

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**January 9, 2022**

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

ISIAH 43:1-7; PSALM 29; ACTS 8:14-17; LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters...the rivers...fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

**January 16, 2022**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPHANY

ISALIAH 62:1-5; PSALM 36:5-10; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11; JOHN 2:1-11

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism – today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

**January 23, 2022**

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, PSALM 19; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31A, LUKE 4:14-21

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

**January 30, 2022**

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JEREMIAH 1:4-10; PSALM 71:1-6; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13; LUKE 4:21-30

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.





# WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST



## Prayers of Peace and Comfort for the friends and family of...

Bill Meier on his death.

Judy Samuelson, on the loss of her brother, Paul Maas.

Ryan & Lindi Samuelson on the loss of Ryan's Uncle, Paul Maas.

Jan Welch on the loss of her brother, Bill Richey.

Greg & Linda Sue Jensen on the death of their cousin, Fred Richardson.

Randy & Bert Hinrichs and family on the death of his cousin, Dave Stryker.

Pam & Mike Epley and family on the death of her cousin, Dave Stryker.

Phyllis Neemann on her death.

## Congratulations to our January Volunteers of the Month: Visual Arts Ministry (VAM)!

The January Volunteers of the month are the Visual Arts Ministry (VAM). This is a team effort of *Dorann Bartels, KrisAnn Sullivan, and Wayne Karschner*. It is a small group, but they make a huge impact on the church. VAM changes all of the paraments and visual arts in the sanctuary, including the draping of the cross. Depending on the time of the year, it can be multiple changes in a month.

In past years, VAM has made original art pieces to adorn our sanctuary's back wall as well as other places in the church. This year KrisAnn Sullivan's granddaughter, *Gracie Boe*, joined the effort by helping to clean and to organize where all of these materials are stored. Gracie also designed a new All Saints banner which we saw on the first weekend in November as well as a new Trinity banner we will see in the Spring. Thank you, Gracie!

We want to say thank you for all of your time and hard work in enhancing our worship experience through the visual arts!

## Adult Forum: February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:50am

On February 6, Derek Schweitzer will be conducting an adult forum in between services. The topic will cover the struggles of individuals and families as we all negotiate life after the holidays in our desire for spring's arrival. All of this while fighting the fatigue of the pandemic. Mr. Schweitzer is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is a member of our congregation. He will be presenting on the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model and how this applies to mental health. Mr. Schweitzer will be highlighting areas such as the pitfalls of cognitive distortions and the utilization of faith, hope, boundaries, coping skills, and scripture. The forum will be presented with the use of a Christ-centered lens in combating everyday life.

# WOMEN of the ELCA

On Saturday, December 11, 26 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the Women of the ELCA Christmas brunch. Delicious breakfast casseroles and fruit cups that were prepared by members of Naomi Circle were enjoyed by those present.

As we enjoyed our meal, fellowship was shared by talking about various aspects of being in our own homes. Ken Mumm was the guest speaker, who talked about the originator of Habitat for Humanity, Millard Fuller. It was interesting to hear how Millard made his money and then started the Fund for Humanity after his visit to Koinonia Farms.

Beth Forbess then gave a presentation about her involvement with Kearney's Habitat for Humanity where she is now serving on the Hospitality Committee. She also offered ideas for how women can be involved in helping to build houses.

Thank you to Gloria Circle for the lovely decorations and the angel ornaments made by Diane Londer. Thanks to Naomi Circle for the wonderful food. A special thanks to Sharon Liljehorn, Patsy Bruner and Paula Peterson for putting together a wonderful program.

Rejoice and Be Glad is the theme for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Winter Retreat to be held on January 22, 2022 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Plans for the day are still being developed. Nebraska Synod Bishop Maas will be joining the group for the day. Registrations are due by January 15. Registration forms have been placed in Circle mailboxes and on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

*This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it - Psalm 118:24*

## Events for 2022

**January 3 – Board meeting – Classrooms 21/22**

**January 22 – Winter Retreat – St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island**

**April 23 – Southern Prairie Spring Gathering in Holdrege**



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

A friend recently remarked to me, “we sure are living in in-between times.”

This resonated with me in ways that I definitely wasn’t expecting. I feel this deep in my soul – and continue to wonder – what does it mean to long for what was and live into the mystery of what is to be two years into a pandemic? What is God up to and how are we being invited to respond?

This idea of “old and new” is familiar territory throughout the whole of scripture. Genesis in particular offers stories of boundaries, trust, blessing, and healing that ground our faith in a God who sees, loves, and creates.

If you, too, are finding yourself longing for the old-familiar in church and in our world, and at the same time, wondering about the mysterious new that God is calling us individually and collectively into, I hope you’ll join me for Bible study beginning January 12!

**I invite you to join me at Campus Lutheran on Wednesdays, January 12 – February 23 at 5:30pm to explore stories of Genesis using the lens of “old and new.”**

A simple soup will be provided so you don’t have to worry about rushing over after a busy day. Everything you need will be provided, just bring your whole selves to dive into scripture and explore what God is up to.

**Details follow on the next page, but feel free to send any questions my way.**  
I hope to see you beginning January 12!

Pastor Elisabeth

**OLD & NEW**  
*A Weekly Study on Genesis*

**OLD** & **NEW**

A STUDY ON GENESIS

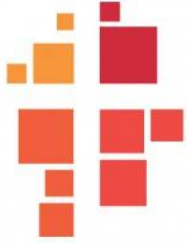
Are you longing for the old familiar &  
wondering about the mysterious  
new that lies ahead?  
Come ponder stories of Genesis  
through this lens:

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm  
January 12 – February 23

All ages welcome for soup,  
scripture & stories  
led by Pastor Elisabeth  
@ Campus Lutheran: 2715 9th Ave.



# CAMPUS LUTHERAN UPDATE



CAMPUS  
LUTHERAN



Thank you to all our partners in ministry!

From cookies and casseroles to your gifts of money and time: your support of the ministry at Campus Lutheran is pure gift!

In the 12 weeks of fall semester 2021, weekly Dinner Church fed anywhere from 3-12 people each week and provided space to explore and deepen faith. We also received a grant from Immanuel Vision Foundation to renovate our lower level (kitchen and lounge) in 2022.

We are excited to continue to live into God's invitation to be a place of authentic, Christ-centered community that nourishes bodies and souls.

For the many ways you share in our mission to invite people to Christ and the community that bears Christ's name, we appreciate you!

With hearts overflowing with gratitude for you, our partners in ministry,

Pastor Elisabeth, Maddy Koebernick, student president & the Campus Lutheran Stewardship Team: Mark Schipporeit, Lisa Parish, Annette Schwartz, Jon Fredericks

# FLY (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH)



*Thank you  
for supporting  
First Lutheran  
Youth!*

our December 12  
auction & brunch raised \$2,000  
for youth mission trips!





FLY  
(FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH) CONT.

JOIN US FOR FLY @

WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT YOUTH  
GROUP

MEETS JANUARY  
12, 19 & 26

7-8PM

WANT MORE TIME TOGETHER? COME  
TO CULVERS FOLLOWING YOUTH  
GROUP WITH \$ FOR SNACKS. PR.  
ELISABETH AND/OR KEITH WILL HANG  
OUT UNTIL EVERYONE HEADS HOME.

# FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION

## Fifth Sunday Celebration

January 30, 2022

**Service at 10:30 AM**

Only **ONE** service on Sunday, January 30  
**NO** service on Saturday, January 29

Sunday School begins at 9:30

## Unity Dinner

Sunday January 30, 2022

Noon

Ramada Inn

No cost but tickets are required  
Sign Up for Reservations begins in January  
Freewill donations appreciated



# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Families,

Our 3/4-year-old preschoolers just wrapped up their first semester by putting on an amazing Christmas program for their families! We were so proud of the way they performed, which for most of them, was their first time on stage in front of a large audience! They did a great job in singing and doing the actions to some of our favorite Christmas songs!

In addition to getting ready for our program, this past month we spent a considerable amount of time reading about and discussing the nativity. We tried to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas by making our own stand-up nativity scenes and by coloring nativity books that each preschooler can now take home and read on their own. We also stayed busy making Christmas crafts and gifts for our families.

We have certainly enjoyed the warm weather we were blessed with recently. We have only had to have indoor recess about 2-3 times this past month. The kids love to play outside! Jack, our decomposing pumpkin, has now completely collapsed and is no longer white and pretty with mold. We are not sure what the future holds for him, but we will keep you posted.

We hope you all can also stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas and enjoy this special time of the year!

God Bless,  
Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Lindi

Happy New Year First Lutheran Congregation!

Right away, the week after Thanksgiving we got the room decorated for Christmas! The kids helped decorate the tree and made ornaments too! We talked and talked about the true meaning of Christmas. They can tell you who Jesus's mother and father is and what a manager is normally used for. They can also tell you where they went and who came to visit baby Jesus. These students are very smart!

For the letter M, we reviewed who the mother of baby Jesus is, learned more about magnets and different ways you can measure objects. They have different magnet dolls that they can pretend with too. We made a Christmas placemat that has baby Jesus on it.

Our Christmas pajama parties were a blast and very busy! The students listed to "The Polar Express" being read to them again this year. They made cute picture frames that look like their name on a label. The kiddos also made an angel decoration that can sit on a table. We hope they have fun talking about that first Christmas night. At the end of our party, we had a book exchange and they loved getting their very own new book!

We have begun to assess kids; because in January we have our parent/teacher conferences and talk about how much they have grown. We will also be planning on registration for the 2022/2023 school year.

Lastly; but definitely not the least important thing to mention is the fact that we were completely humbled by our generous congregation and preschool families that came together and donated over \$7,500 towards materials that we will need and help us move toward an all-day program in the Pre-K room. Thank you so much for helping "Give Where You Live"!

We hope this new year brings you many joys! These children bring us joy every single day! We are so blessed! God's blessings to you and your loved ones.

God Bless,  
Mrs. Amanda and Mrs. Jane

# PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

## **2022-2023 First Lutheran Church Preschool/Pre-K Registration**

The Preschool registration for the upcoming school year is almost here. Please check the following dates and times below. More details can be found at <https://firstlutheranearney.org/first-lutheran-preschool/>

**Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** – All current students and siblings are invited to register on this date.

**Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** – Members of the church congregation are invited to register.

**Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** – Registration is opened to the public.

## **Preschool Breakfast Sunday, January 23, 2022 9:30 am – 11:00 am Centennial Hall**



The First Lutheran  
Preschool Ministry invites  
you to breakfast!  
Please join us for food,  
fellowship, and to learn  
what we have been about  
this year.

# JANUARY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Troop 139 Boy Scout Court of Honor @ 3:00 p.m.

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Church Office is closed.

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** – Congregation Council Retreat at Harmon Park 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday School returns

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>** – Study with Pastor Rick @ 9:50 a.m. in Centennial Hall

**January 12<sup>th</sup>** – Wednesday evening events return, confirmation, FROG, Feeding the Flock, and Bible Study.

**January 12<sup>th</sup>** – Bible Study w/Pastor Elisabeth @ Campus Lutheran

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** – Martin Lutheran King Jr. Day Church Office is closed.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Preschool Breakfast @ 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** – Fifth Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School starting at 9:30 a.m. that day.

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** – Congregation Unity Dinner @ 12 p.m. Ramada Inn  
Come celebrate our mission together!



*Epiphany*

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

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GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

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**