

# THE MESSENGER

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

## Lenten Abundance

“You don’t have to give up something for Lent?” I remember being asked that question more than once when I was growing up. The town of my youth (which was almost the exact same size as Kearney) was predominantly Roman Catholic in terms of religious affiliation as were my elementary school classmates (and though I attended public schools the large number of Roman Catholic students meant fish was always on the Friday cafeteria menu). Consequently, it was not unusual for religious topics, especially those related to the differences between Roman Catholics and Protestants, to find their way into our conversations at recess. “Why would I have to give something up for Lent?” I would ask my classmate inquisitor. “Because those are rules for Lent. You’ve got to give up something. Didn’t your priest tell you the rules?” To which I would respond, “We don’t have a priest. We have a pastor.”

Don’t get me wrong. My Methodist family did observe Lent. We attended church on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and (usually) Good Friday. We had Lenten folders in which we would put a dime in a sleeve every day for 40 days. During my days in Junior High, if basketball practice got done in time, I would go to Wednesday evening Lenten services before I went to Confirmation class (usually under duress). It is just that we didn’t give something up for Lent. I do appreciate people who have a tradition different from mine and who practice giving something up for Lent as a spiritual discipline and a mindful commitment to the season of Lent. I just would not put that under the category of something one has to do because those are the rules for Lent.

For our Wednesday evening mid-week services this Lent, we are actually going to go in a bit of a different direction. We are going to focus on abundance (something not always done in Lent); the abundance of God’s faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. We will incorporate a key scriptural passage and a central visual image along with readings, song, silence, and prayer to help us focus on the multitude of God’s gifts which abound in our lives. So, whether or not you have a tradition of giving something up for Lent, we hope you can join us for a Lenten journey on the path of divine abundance.

Pastor Rick

## A Message from the Co-Lead Pastors



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Prayer Ventures for March 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

Time to order  
**Easter Lilies and Tulips**



**Lilies cost \$15.00**  
**Tulips cost \$16.00**



**Orders are due by 8:00 AM**  
**March 28, 2022**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VBS PLANNING COMMITTEE

It's time to start thinking about FLC's **Vacation Bible School 2022!** It takes many hands to make this event special for our youth. We need parishioners to step-forward to sit on our VBS Planning Committee. Experience is not necessary, you can take on a small or large role, whatever fits your level of comfort. The VBS Planning Committee will be meeting March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 p.m. to start working on the 2022 Vacation Bible School plans. This is open to anyone who is interested in helping out. Thank you!

## NEW MEMBERS' CLASSES

Will be held on March 13, 20, and 27 at 9:50 am to 10:50 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please call the church office if you plan to attend. We will receive New Members on April 2/3 at all services. There will be a reception between services Sunday morning in Centennial Hall.

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASS: "God's Fiery Prophets—Part 2"

Pastor Rick's Adult Education Class on God's Fiery Prophets will begin Part 2 on will be continued the first two Sundays in March. These three class sessions will focus on the prophet Elisha who was chosen by God to succeed the prophet Elijah. The class will meet in Centennial Hall at 9:50 a.m. These sessions will be recorded and posted on our church's website in case you are not able attend every class session.

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP IN CHILDRENS' MINISTRIES

For the 2022-23 school year, FLC needs a **new FROG Coordinator!** FROG ("Fully Rely On God") is Wednesday evening programming for Pre-K through 5th grade children, running late August through late April. Our Care & Growth Committee will provide lots of support, teaching curriculum, and a pre-set calendar. Please email Stefani Wegner ([StefaniDWegner@gmail.com](mailto:StefaniDWegner@gmail.com)) or contact the church office for more information.

## JOIN THE VISUAL ART MINISTRY TEAM!

The responsibilities of the Visual Art Ministry Team (VAM) are to decorate the sanctuary with seasonally appropriate banners and hangings, floral accents, and vignettes to add to the beauty of our worship space and to place focus on the current liturgical season. If you are interested in being a part of making our sanctuary a place of beauty and a reflection of God's glory through decoration, we encourage you to join our ministry. New ideas are welcomed, time commitment is minimal, the rewards are great! Please call the church office or Dorann Bartels 308.627.5271 to become part of VAM!

## MISSION OUTREACH

March's Donation of the month will be paper products. Items include: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, paper plates, and paper cups.

The S.A.F.E. Center is the Spouse/Sexual Abuse Family Education Center. The S.A.F.E. Center's mission is to provide free and confidential services for those affected by dating violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking while bringing awareness and prevention efforts to all individuals across South Central Nebraska.

**Counties we serve:** Buffalo, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps

**Please place items on the "Sharing Shelf" in the narthex. Thank you!**



**S.A.F.E. Center**  
Empower. Support. Educate.

### JUBILEE CENTER

*Thank you* to all of the Volunteers from First Lutheran Church including Carol Stuhr, Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein, Brad Kernick, Gary Straatmann, Vicki Conn and Beth Forbess. The Jubilee Center needs jeans in all sizes.

### LEADING WORSHIP at Brookstone Gardens

First Sunday of the Month @ 1:30pm  
Two Brief Worship Services

Volunteers Welcome!

If interested, please contact Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein.

# LENT

## Ash Wednesday Services

March 2, 2022

12:00pm & 6:30pm

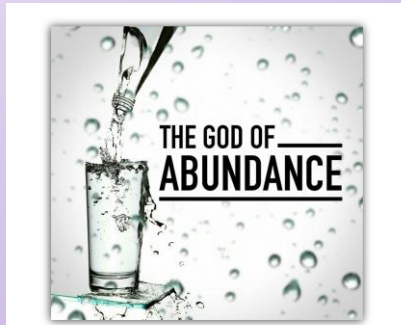
Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion



## Lenten Midweek Service

Turning Toward God's Abundance:  
Word and Prayer



Wednesday Evenings  
6:30pm  
Beginning Mary 9th

## Mission Outreach Lenten Offering

People often ask what item is most commonly requested through Care Portal, a technology platform designed to connect children and families in crisis to churches and people who want to help. Across the 20 U.S. states that Care Portal is active in, and within Buffalo County, the answer is clear: beds and cribs.

Reasons for needing a bed vary, but some include: poverty, escape from circumstances without the ability to bring belongings, insect infestation, or unexpected addition of a family member. Sometimes, providing a bed for each family member is a requirement for children to be reunified with parents, or for a family member to care for a child, so they are not placed with others.

**So, the Mission Outreach Team of First Lutheran Church has designated this as the Lenten Project for this year. There are different ways that you can help:**

- **Donate** to the collection boxes located at the Welcome Stations in the narthex.
- **Volunteer** to build basic beds that are ready to meet those requests.
- **Volunteer** to deliver a bed to a family in need.
- **Pray** for families in need, and for the staff at agencies that serve them.

# 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

### Amanda Lewis

*Lead Teacher for the Preschool*

amandalewis@firstlutheranearney.org

## JANUARY FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Jan 2022	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 66,268	\$ 417,902	\$ 425,875
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (63,175)	\$ (475,022)	\$ (452,239)

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

Facilities Budget:	Jan 2022	YTD '21-'22	YTD '20-'21
Revenue	\$ 7,355	\$ 55,802	\$ 55,100
Expenditures	\$ (6,796)	\$ (27,314)	\$ (19,341)

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!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

*Jeremiah 29:11*



# COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from Church Council,

We had our First Lutheran Unity Dinner on January 30. It was great to get together and celebrate all of the good things happening at First Lutheran and recognize the many ways that First Lutheran serves others. So, what does unity actually mean? If you look at different dictionaries, you are going to get different definitions. To me, unity means coming together for a common cause or purpose. It does not mean 100% agreement on all things. Some people like Coke and some like Pepsi. Some people will say a Ford is the way to go and others will say it's a Chevy. Some prefer their steak medium rare and some prefer it well done. At First Lutheran, some people prefer the 8:45 service and others the 11:00 service. Some prefer traditional hymns and others prefer more contemporary music. I think you get my point.

The bottom line is we don't always agree and that is ok. We all come from different backgrounds and we all have different life experiences. These things will lead to our preferences, likes and dislikes. Differing ideas and opinions are a given, not only in a church; but in life. However, despite differing ideas and opinions, people can still come together for a common purpose and cause. My wife and I don't even belong to the same political party. Yet, we have still come together for the common purpose of 29 years of marriage. The same thing can happen for any family, organization or church. We need to always stay focused on our purpose and cause because when we do that we can continue to serve others and make a positive difference in this world.

We continue to be blessed by the very generous Stevenson gift. Perhaps you have noticed; but there are several lights that have burned out in the sanctuary. Replacing them is a pretty significant task. The bulbs are actually a small part of the cost. Renting a lift to complete the work is quite expensive. We will be starting this work in the near future and the Stevenson gift will help us pay for this. We have been so fortunate to have this as a resource for our church.

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.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for  
brethren to dwell together in unity!

*Psalms 133:1*

# WORSHIP THEMES

**March 6, 2022**

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11; PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16; ROMANS 10:8B-13; LUKE 4:1-13

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth of wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

**March 13, 2022**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18; PSALM 27; PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1; LUKE 13:31-35

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."



**March 20, 2022**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

ISAIAH 55:1-9; PSALM 63:1-8; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13; LUKE 13:1-9

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

**March 27, 2022**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

JOSHUA 5:9-12; PSALM 32; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21; LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!



# WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

thank you  
volunteers!

## Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

Myron & Diane Riddle and Dave and Renae Zimmer and family on the passing of Harvey Hanson, Myron's nephew and cousin to Renae Zimmer.

The family and friends of LeOra Molcyk upon her death.

Barb & Lowell Gehring on their brother-in-law, Royce Corder's death.

Jens Puls on the death of her uncle, Mike Gillespie.

The family and friends of Gary Petersen upon his death.

The entire Workman Family on the death of Jennifer Workman.

Rob & Jera Hinkle on the death of Rob's mom, Mabel Hinkle.

## Congratulations to our March Volunteers of the Month: The Dave and Angela Wright Family!

The March Volunteers of the Month are the Wright Family! The Wright Family is involved in various activities. Dave is the Coordinator for Feeding the Flock on Wednesday evenings. This includes menu planning, purchasing and serving the weekly meals. He also provides meals during VBS. Dave is also a member of the Care & Growth Team. Dave helps the Pastors out when needed (for example, scooping walkways, or helping with tasks at their home). Angela is the Director of the Heavenly Treble Makers and the Praiser Bells, sings in the Chancel Choir and plays in Chancel Bells. Angela has directed VBS as well as continuing as a helper. She substitutes at the piano for services as well as choir accompanist. Angela is chair of the Mutual Ministry team for Pastors Carlson (and served on their Call Committee). Miranda is currently a communion server and Assisting Minister, plays in Praiser Bells and Chancel Bells, and sings in in Heavenly Treble Makers, has helped with Vacation Bible School and assists Pastor Elisabeth with different projects throughout the year. Miranda regularly fills in wherever needed at worship on Sunday morning. Karson plays in Chancel Bells, sang in Heavenly Treble Makers, is a Vacation Bible School assistant and helps with various church projects to include Sunday and Wednesday participation in FLY activities.

We cannot forget about Maleah and Marissa! Before moving to college, they were also involved in Vacation Bible School. Maleah was part of the Call Committee process for Pastor Elisabeth and served on her Mutual Ministry Committee. Marissa was involved in various church projects. Both of them have sung in our choirs, and along with their mother have regularly provide special music for our worship services.

Pray WITHOUT  
CEASING

# WOMEN of the ELCA

On January 22, fifty-two women met at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island for the Women of the ELCA Winter Retreat. The theme for the day, Rejoice and Be Glad, comes from Psalm 118:24. Bishop Brian Maas led a Bible study on Psalm 118, which happened to be Martin Luther's favorite psalm. He stated that while David wrote the psalm, Jesus lived it. He discussed how the verses relate to Jesus's last days.

We also heard an update about Human Trafficking and how the Women of the ELCA are working to raise awareness about this issue. There is a wealth of information about the subject on the Women of the ELCA website. Kristin Herrera from Camp Carol Joy Holling encouraged us to live out their new mission statement: Faith Alive. One way to do this is to encourage college-aged students who would be great camp counselors to share their gifts and talents. It was a fun-filled day which left us with renewed energy to serve the Lord.

All women of the church are invited to attend the Southern Prairie Spring Gathering which will be held on April 23rd at Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church in Holdrege. The theme for the day "Gather Gladly for Strength", comes from Philippians 4:12 -13. The day will include a business meeting, Bible Study, and the guest speaker Pastor Elisabeth. We will be collecting a tangible offering for Campus Lutheran that day. They need personal care items, food pantry items, and building needs for hospitality.

There is a Saved to Serve Opportunity from April 20 - May 1 at Magdalene Omaha. This is an opportunity to serve victims of human trafficking. One service opportunity will be to make survivor bags for those who are fleeing trafficking situations. Since some of the survivors also have children, survivor bags will also be made for them.

Remember April 30th is the day to celebrate Friends and Fellowship at First. It will be a great time to share fellowship while enjoying a salad luncheon. More details will be coming next month.

**Check out the Women of ELCA bulletin board for registration forms and information promoted by the Women of the ELCA.**

Just a note for anyone using the lace tablecloths on the serving tables, clear vinyl has been purchased to cover the lace on the rectangular tables. When the event is finished, wipe with clean water, let dry and roll it on the tube. Thanks for helping us preserve the life of these tablecloths.

## Events for 2022

March 7 - 7:00 - Board Meeting - Classroom 21/22

April 23 – Southern Prairie Spring Gathering in Holdrege

April 29 - May 1 - Saved to Serve - Magdalene, Omaha

April 30 – First Lutheran Spring Activity



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

Hello First Lutheran Friends,

On a recent Zoom call with my Region 4 Campus Ministry colleagues, we were asked:

*What do you think... is the Church in a Noah's ark situation right now?*

This question came up because there seem to be waves rising all around us; a swelling panic that the Church won't survive in this almost-post-pandemic world. After all, attendance is down and giving is down and pastors are exhausted and people aren't getting what they want from the Church anyway. Young adults seem to find community elsewhere, along with folks of all ages.

When we really think about it, the story of Noah's ark is actually pretty confusing and terrifying. Perhaps that's why we like to focus on the cute animals walking two-by-two to distract us from the fact that most everything on earth is destroyed in that flood.

But. Noah's ark is the kind of story in which awful things happen and God's promise remains: *something will survive, something will last – even when it feels like all hope is lost.*

The Church has survived the rise and fall of so much... the comings and goings of individual leaders, waning attendance, education programs, the introduction of new liturgy and hymns, and even our individual demands for what "church" should be...

The Church survives because the Church is God's.

Together, we live in a death/resurrection story because of Jesus, and now seems like a really crucial time to ask – what needs to survive to keep the Church moving ahead for the sake of the Good News? Is it programs? Is it a certain number of worship services or precise number of people in the pews? Is it masking policies or aligned political perspectives? Is it whom and how we love? Is it about individual needs and wants, or the whole?

What survives? There are so many questions.  
And a singular invitation.... God's invitation.

Perhaps God's invitation is to be in holy conversation about what we want to put on the ark – together.

The Church is God and God will have God's way – but that doesn't mean we can't dream alongside the Creator about who and what the Church is and can be for the sake of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

So much in our culture is changing. How do we authentically honor what was, what new things need to surface, and what will last into the future? How can we enter into this holy work *together*?

Perhaps, we need to pause in assuming that one person or one group has the answer. Let's start asking each other honest questions, and listen well to one another and to God.

In hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth

# CAMPUS LUTHERAN



At Campus Lutheran, our current core ministry is weekly Dinner Church, a meal and worship that nourishes young adults in body and soul who are craving authentic community.

As this ministry grows, so do the limitations of our kitchen!

With a generous grant from the Immanuel Vision Foundation, we will begin remodeling our kitchen and lower-level lounge this spring to allow for growth in student, community, and congregational connections.

On this journey, we are inviting congregations and individuals to join our "Feeding the Faith" campaign to match our funding with a goal of raising \$25,000 by May 2022.

The additional funds will help the building project as well as fund the ministry and support a student staff person for the upcoming academic year(s).

Join us in this opportunity to live into our mission to welcome all!

## TO CONTRIBUTE

**By check:**

Campus Lutheran (FtF in memo)  
2715 9th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

**Online:**

[www.campuslutheranunk.org/donate](http://www.campuslutheranunk.org/donate)  
(select "Feeding the Faith")



CAMPUS  
LUTHERAN

# FLY (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH)



**FLY PANCAKE FEED**

**ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 2, 2022**

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**  
**(before Ash Wednesday Worship Service)**

**Pancakes, fruit, sausage, juice, and fellowship!**

**Freewill offering for FLY Mission Trips**

## FLY March Calendar:

Sundays: March 6, 13, 20, & 27 @ 9:55am  
*(Pastor Elisabeth on the road for Campus Lutheran on March 13 & 27)*

Wednesdays: March 9, 16, 23 & 30 @ 7-8pm  
*(meet in the basement after Lent midweek worship at 6:30)*



# CHILDREN/MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

## **First Communion Classes**

Begin Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

5:45 pm to 6:25 pm

Fellowship Hall

Open to 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and older who have not yet taken First Communion classes

Registration Forms can be found on the Welcome Stations.



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## Wednesday Night Schedule

(ending February 23<sup>rd</sup>/resuming April 20<sup>th</sup>)

**Confirmation and FROG resume after LENT**

6:30 pm – 7:55 pm - FROG Fully Rely on God

6:50 pm – 8:00 pm Confirmation



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is seeking individuals who would be willing to be nominated and to serve on the following Congregational committees:

- **Congregational Council**
  - 4 members to be elected at June 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 3 years (persons elected are eligible to serve 2 terms)
- **Preschool Board**
  - 3 members to be elected at June 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 3 years (persons elected are eligible to serve 2 terms)
- **Nominating Committee**
  - 4 members to be elected at June 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting
  - Term of Service is 2 years (persons elected are not eligible to serve a consecutive term)
- We ask all members of First Lutheran to prayerfully consider this opportunity to be a part of the leadership for our church. More information on the specific role of each of these committees can be found on the website at [firstlutherankearney.org/leadership-ministry-teams](http://firstlutherankearney.org/leadership-ministry-teams).
- You may nominate yourself or any other church member by providing a name and contact phone number to anyone on the Nominating Committee. Deadline for submissions of nominations is Monday, May 2, 2022. We are also available to address any questions you may have.

Serving for Christ,

Kim Schipporeit, co-chair  
Paula Peterson  
Ken Tracy  
Cindy Wessels  
Heidi Andersen, co-chair  
Beth Forbess



# MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

M  
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## Handel's "Messiah"

Will be presented by the Axtell Area Oratorio Society  
**Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
**Merryman Performing Arts Center**



Rehearsals begin Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 2:30 PM  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Axtell

P  
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R  
F  
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## Natalie and Friends in Concert

Sunday, April 24, 2022  
3:00 PM

First Lutheran Church

No charge but freewill offering  
to support handbell program



Participants:  
Natalie Radcliffe-flute,  
Chancel Bells, Praiser Bells,  
UNK Flute Choir, Colleen Nenstiel-bell tree,  
Reed Wagner-piano

### 2022 Children's Choir Signing Dates

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – the 11:00 a.m. service

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – the 8:45 a.m. service

If you have any questions, text Amanda at 240-0872.

# FAMILY PHOTOS FOR PICTORIAL DIRECTORY NEEDED!

## Family Photos Needed



*We are creating an updated church directory.*

*Please help us complete this project.*

*Contact anyone on Witness and Members with questions!*

Drop off or email pictures to the church office by March 31, 2022

## UPDATING OUR PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

### We need your photos!

We are creating an updated pictorial directory for the church. We need your picture to complete the project. This is a helpful way for us to get to know one another.

If you do not have a picture, we will be snapping quick photos in the narthex on the weekends of March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

Do you have questions? Contact Jen Puls or anyone on the Witness & Members Team.

Drop off **OR** email pictures to the church before March 31, 2022.

Thank you!

# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Families,

We can smell spring coming even if the groundhog disagrees! Our 3- and 4-year-olds have been busy making hearts for Valentine's Day and we have been learning about the anatomical heart along with other body parts. We have a resident skeleton in our classroom that has taught us about some cool anatomy, and we even played with a working heart model.

Another subject we touched on this month was measuring. We learned how important it is to be able to measure things and what we might need to measure the length of the room, or how much flour to put in our cookie recipe, or how we would measure temperature, etc. We were excited to have our moms join us for muffins and to have them help us learn to measure by making mud pies! Yum! These kids are sooo blessed to have such amazing moms!!!

Also, these preschoolers are getting really good at writing their names! Yay!!!! It is an exciting time to be a preschooler!

Happy Spring,  
Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Lindi

Hello First Lutheran Congregation!

We have been busy! We have learned about Groundhog's Day, shadows, burrows, hibernation, migration and those animals that stay awake near us.

Our field trip to Valentino's Pizza was fun! We sang all the way there and back. The students told us some really funny jokes too! Oh! We must not forget that they gave us pizza and ice cream! They loved every minute and some said it was the best day ever!

We had Stefani Wegner, UNK students and dental professionals come to teach us about dental care! It was soooo fun!

This week of Valentine's Party was a short week, but we finish a heart wreath, made a valentine for their family, played a heart memory game and musical hearts. Their valentine boxes and valentines were beautiful! They are very creative families!

Next week, we celebrate Dr. Seuss on the week of his birthday. We are already on the letter S. They have learned a ton of kindergarten words already!

Then we will have the Letter T week and celebrate with some St. Patrick's Day fun! We will start to learn about the different coins. There might be a leprechaun making mischief in our room. We shall see!

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, we have our next field trip to Paint Paradise! We can't wait!

We have a spring break just like KPS does the 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, we will be learning about poisons and what makes a rainbow!

Many March Blessings to you and your families!  
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Jane



# MARCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

**Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ash Wednesday Worship services at Noon and 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Pancake Feed beginning at 5:00 p.m.

**Sundays, March 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>** Adult Education with Pastor Rick at 9:50 a.m.

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** – Worship at Brookstone Gardens with Sister Ruth Ellen

**Wednesdays, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>** – Feeding the Flock begins at 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>** – First Communion Classes at 5:45 p.m.

**Wednesdays, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>** - Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services at 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** - Daylight Savings Begins

**Sundays, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>** – New Members' Classes at 9:50 a.m.

**Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** – Messenger Deadline for April

{Our God}  
IS ABLE  
TO DO  
*exceeding*  
*abundantly above*  
ALL THAT WE  
*ask* OR *imagine.*  
*—Ephesians 3:20*

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RECEIVING  
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING  
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING  
IN CHRIST

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 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