

THE MESSENGER

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

Spring, Holy Week, Passover

When I was growing up in Minnesota, there seemed to be annual occurrences which were marks that Spring was near. For example, when the Dairy Queen reopened after being closed for the winter months (it was an outdoor, walk-up Dairy Queen) we knew that Spring was not too far off. When the gutters overflowed with water due to the snow melt, Spring was coming. Another sign that Spring was near was the Minnesota State Basketball Tournament. Back in those days there were no divisions according to the size of schools. It was simply the eight teams that won their respective regions. That meant there were true Cinderella teams such as Hayfield, a town with a population under 1,000, taking on teams from affluent suburbs around the Twin Cities (think *Hoosiers*). Another sure sign of Spring's imminent arrival was outdoor baseball practice. The temperature might be hovering around 35 and piles of snow might still linger under the bleachers, but we were out there. The basic attire included sweatpants with gym shorts worn on the outside, zip-up hoodies over stocking caps, and during batting practice at least twice your hands would really sting when your bat made contact with the ball. Yet, we knew Spring was on the way bringing much warmer baseball weather. Of course, there was always Holy Week and its varied worship services. More than once there were snow storms on those days, but I don't think church services were ever cancelled on those important days. In my home congregation, Maundy Thursday was one of three times a year the Lord's Supper was offered so you didn't want to miss that service. (Although, when I was in seventh grade, I had my tonsils out on Maundy Thursday; I didn't make it to church.)

Now that we have lived in Nebraska for a few years, I've noted certain signs indicating that Spring is near. The migrating of the Sandhill Cranes, for example, is a clear sign of Spring's approach. During this time of year, we see robins house hunting for choice nesting sites in our backyard. It also seems that the wind blows even harder than usual as Spring approaches. When I put the snowblower in the shed and retrieve the lawnmower, Spring must be drawing near. And, of course there are the services of Holy Week just as when I was growing up.

Unlike Christmas, which is a fixed date, the dates of Holy Week vary from year to year. You may have wondered why this is the case. It all has to do with the first full moon after the first day of Spring. While this may initially sound a bit strange, it goes back to the time of Jesus. Jesus' last supper and his crucifixion occurred at the time of Passover. The first Jewish Passover at the time of Moses (over 1,200 years before Jesus) occurred on the 15th day of the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar which was a full moon. Almost every year since then, this is the first full moon after the vernal equinox which marks the beginning of Spring. So almost every year, Holy Week occurs the same week as Passover. Theologically, there are also a number of connections between the meaning of Passover and the meaning of Jesus' death. Passover involved the death of a lamb, and the New Testament understands Jesus to be the lamb of God whose death takes away the sin of the world. The blood of the Passover lamb was spread on the doorposts of Hebrew houses whereas we refer to the new covenant in Jesus' blood. The food of the Passover meal is very specific (lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs) as is the food of the Lord's Supper stemming from the Last Supper (bread and wine). The annual Passover meal involves remembering how God liberated the Hebrew people from their slavery in Egypt. The Lord's Supper is carried out in remembrance of how God liberated us from our bondage to sin through Jesus' death. At the Passover meal, the story of the original Passover is retold. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper we retell the story of Jesus' death for us. That Holy Week is a sign of the arrival Spring is rooted in the ways in which Passover and Holy Week have been intertwined calendar-wise and theologically since the time of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Pastor Rick

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Prayer Ventures for April 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

Lutheran World Relief at work in Eastern Europe



Want to help? Go to
<https://firstlutheranearney.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

We will receive New Members on April 2/3 at all services. There will be a reception between services Sunday morning in Centennial Hall.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

What's in a name? In the Bible we read many names for Jesus. Why so many names? What do they mean? And, **what do they mean for me?** Beginning Wednesday, April 20, the Wednesday night adult Bible study will talk about 5 of the many names the Bible has for Jesus. Are you curious? If this piques your interest, you might join us on Wednesday nights. We meet at 6:00 in the conference room. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Ruth Ellen.

sister.ruth.ellen.rebelein@gmail.com

HABITAT NEWS

The Habitat Board approved the first two homebuilders for 2022 and expect to approve the third homebuilder next month. Habitat International invited every affiliate to donate to its International Disaster Fund. These donations will pay for temporary housing for Ukrainian refugees, providing shelter, water, sanitation, health care and safety measures. The Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity voted to donate \$1,000 to this fund. April 2 will be the opening day of the 2022 Build Season. One house foundation is in place, the garden shed has been built and walls are being assembled in the warehouse. To volunteer anytime during the Build Season contact Pr. John Gosswein at pr.john.foc@gmail.com or Cindy Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator at cindyhayes@gmail.com.

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) 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

April's Donation of the Month: Diapers (size 5 & 6) and Pull-Ups (size 2T & 3T)

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!



Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm/**Address:** 620 E. 25th Suite 14, Kearney NE, 68847

Phone: 308-237-2599/**24 Hour Toll-Free Crisis Line:** 877-237-2513

LEADING WORSHIP @ Brookstone Gardens

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

Volunteers Welcome!

If interested, please contact Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein.

sister.ruth.ellen.rebelein@gmail.com

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

martibrockmeier@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

FEBRUARY FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	FEB 2022	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 69,890	\$ 486,791	\$ 481,889
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (76,478)	\$ (551,500)	\$ (524,666)

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

Facilities Budget:	FEB 2022	YTD '21-'22	YTD '20-'21
Revenue	\$ 5,090	\$ 60,893	\$ 61,759
Expenditures	\$ (1,808)	\$ (29,123)	\$ (21,610)

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



GIVING OPTIONS

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

VANCO Faith: which allows people to make financial contributions to the church electronically in the following ways:

1. Online (just go to the First Lutheran website under the "Resources" tab), and
2. Mobile App (download the Vanco Mobile app on the iPhone or Android, create a profile and search for "First Lutheran").

If you have any questions or would like assistance in using any of the above electronic giving options or would like to receive offering envelopes, please contact Marti in the church office.

Thank you so much for your faithful generosity to First Lutheran Church's ministry!

Offering Envelopes

If you contribute with a check, please use your offering envelopes or make sure you write your envelope number in the memo line on your check so may record your contribution accurately. Thank you for your support of First Lutheran's Ministry!

COUNCIL UPDATE

Hello from Church Council,

As a basketball coach, I love the month of March. I love watching all the games at the high school state tournament and the excitement that surrounds it. Then, of course, there is March Madness. This refers to the craziness that annually is a part of the NCAA basketball tournament. Even though the term madness is used, it's a good madness. It's a fun and exciting madness.

However, not all madness is fun and exciting. This is the madness of life. It's no secret to anyone that life can throw a lot of madness at us. Political bickering can lead to madness. Gas prices and overall inflation can lead to madness. Unexpected bills can lead to madness. Social media posts can lead to madness. War can lead to madness. There are a lot of things in our day to day lives that can lead to madness.

I have discovered something that helps with my madness. It's called First Lutheran. Listening to a great sermon from Pastor Rick, Pastor Michelle or Pastor Elisabeth helps. Listening to the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Chancel Bells, Praiser Bells or Sound Offering helps. Having the opportunity to visit with the many wonderful people who attend First Lutheran helps. Watching people stock the shelves with donated goods for the SAFE Center helps. It also helps to simply stare at the beautiful cross that hangs above the altar because when I do this my madness turns into hope.

What happens at First Lutheran, may not remove all of the madness from our daily lives. However, what happens at First Lutheran can go a long way in helping us deal with it.

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.

Consider Giving Online This Easter

1. Visit firstlutherankearney.org
2. Locate the "Make a Donation" button.
3. Donate!

It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest. We appreciate your generosity this Easter!



WORSHIP THEMES

APRIL 3, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PSALM 126; PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14; JOHN 12:1-8

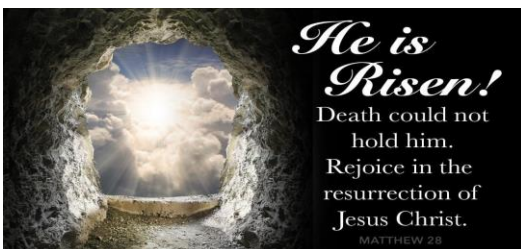
Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

April 10, 2022

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

ISAIAH 50:4-9A; PSALM 31:9-16;
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; LUKE 22:14-23:56

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.



April 17, 2022

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD,
EASTER DAY**

ACTS 10:34-43; PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24; 1
CORINTHIANS 15:19-26; LUKE 24:1-12

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

April 24, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 118:14-29; REVELATION 1:4-8;
JOHN 20:19-31

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

Stacy, Caleb & Joshua Bean on the death of Stacy's grandpa, Dennis Gorr.

Jim Crick on the death of his wife, Elly.

Al & Jan Baker on the death of Jan's mom, Elly Crick.

Andrew, Miranda, & Charlie Obermeier on the death of Miranda's grandma.

Deb Beerman on the death of her friend, John Smutny.

Larry & Nancy Merz on the death of Nancy's niece, Jody Ramsey.

The Bartholomew family on the death of Cindy.

The family of Darlene Lewis upon her death.

The family of Ree Ritzen upon her death.

*thank you
volunteers!*

Congratulations to our March Volunteers of the Month: The Jubilee Center Volunteers!

The Jubilee Center helps feed and clothe people as well as provide help for people in need of new beginnings. It is a non-profit, ecumenical, community-based organization aimed at providing the most basic of human needs while advocating for social justice. The Jubilee Center strives to maintain client dignity while offering supportive services in the areas of food, clothing, rent and utility assistance and medication assistance.

Volunteers help in the Thrift Store, Food Pantry, and with Community Dinners. Many hands make light work!

We appreciate and thank all of our First Lutheran Church Members past and present who have helped with this caring organization including: Brad Kernick, Carol Stuhr, Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein, Beth Forbess, Lisa Reese Parish, Vicki Conn, and Gary Straatmann.

You can find the Jubilee Center at 1920 Central Avenue in Kearney. If you have questions or would like to donate, please call: 308-234-3880.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all of the beautiful cards, flowers, food and best wishes on our 65th Anniversary. Also thank you kids who all made it home for a wonderful carry in meal.

Milt & Marlene Kotrc

Dear Friends & Family,

Thank you so much for remembering me while I was in the hospital and throughout my rehabilitation after my fall. Your thoughtfulness of cards, notes, phone calls and visits were very much appreciated. The time passed more quickly when I had things besides getting well to think about. Friends are family are wonderful in times of need. A special thank you to Pastor Michelle, Kandy and parishioners from First Lutheran Church. Also thank you for all of the kindness given by the nurses, therapists, and other employees at Regional Hospital and Mount Carmel.

With thanks and appreciation,

Bernie Johnson

WOMEN of the ELCA

Volunteers Needed- We need of two volunteers to help with Lutheran World Relief. One volunteer would help Theress Bricker with sewing the backpacks for the school kits and help on packing day. The other volunteer would help Alicia Tracy with putting the infant care kits together and helping on God's Work, Our Hands day. If you are interested in helping in either of these areas, contact Theress Bricker or Deb Schauer.

We are also in need of interested individuals to serve as officers. If you are good with money, we are looking for someone to serve as treasurer. We are also looking for one or two individuals to serve as vice-president. These offices are a two-year commitment.

April is an exciting month for the Women of the ELCA as we have two great events for you to attend. 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. Our local WELCA organization will reimburse you for half of your registration if you choose to attend. 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.
THE REGISTRATION FORM IS LOCATED ON THE WELCA BULLETIN BOARD AND IS DUE APRIL 16TH.

**ALL ladies of the church are invited to attend
FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS AT FIRST
APRIL 30th - 11:00am**

Please bring a salad and a friend.

**Free will offering will be taken with proceeds going to the
WELCA Synod office and the SAFE Center.**

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. They are also in need of tangible items and the list is on the WELCA bulletin board. It will be gathered at the Spring Gathering.

Events for 2022

April 23 – Southern Prairie Spring Gathering in Holdrege

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

April 30 – Fellowship with Friends at First – Centennial Hall

Bring a salad and a Friend.

June 6 – 7:00 p.m. WELCA Board Meeting – Classrooms 21 & 22.



Ladies who are interested in joining a monthly Bible study are invited to attend a women's circle. Circles can be joined at any time during the year.

President:

Deb Schauer (308) 233-2669

Secretary:

Bev Vacha (308)-468-6239

Treasurer:

Jo Smallcomb (308)-234-3053



ABIGAIL CIRCLE (SEPT.-MAY)

9:00 am—3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Joan Swanson

(308-234-2835) and Evy Kuecker
(308-237-5651)

DEBORAH CIRCLE

7:00 pm—3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Deb Schauer (308-233-2669) and Ellen Epp (308-234-5696)

GLORIA CIRCLE

12:00pm—3rd Thursday

Chair: Judy Workman

NAOMI CIRCLE

7:30pm—4th Thursday

(3rd Thurs.in Nov.)

Chair: Judy Niemann
(308)-234-4332

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ELISABETH



Dear First Lutheran,

My favorite movie right now is definitely Disney's "Encanto." If you haven't watched it yet, the movie tells the story of a magical family, the Madrigals, who live in a magical house called Encanto. Each child in Encanto goes through a "gift ceremony" in which their magical door opens magical gifts and abilities unique to each receiver – super strength, perfect hearing, healing others, understanding animals – and every child has received a magical gift except for Mirabel.

As Mirabel begins to see the magic of Encanto is in danger, she decides that even though she doesn't have a magical gift bestowed on her, she will bring the family together to save the Encanto. It turns out we are not only defined by a single gift.

The story, images, and most of all the great music appeal to all ages. While I was watching, I texted my pastor friends from seminary, "have you seen Encanto? There's a sermon in here somewhere..." and the response was "let's write a Bible study!" So, we're working on one and maybe we'll be able to implement it this summer. But, in the meantime, the movie is a great conversation starter to talk about faith. Thanks to the Nebraska Synod "Staff Pick of the Month" which also highlighted this movie, I've included the questions below so you can talk about faith on the big (or living room) screen!

- We don't know why some family members have magical doors and gifts while others don't. What are some of the emotions we see because of the gifts? Are they all 'good' emotions?
- Mirabel doesn't have a magical door, but she does have gifts! What are some of Mirabel's gifts? How does this connect with the Priesthood of All Believers in 1 Peter 2:4-5?

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:4-5)

- Let's talk about Bruno! Bruno's gift can sometimes feel like a curse, and he doesn't always know how to use it. It wasn't until he reconnected with his family that he saw the beauty in his gift. What spiritual gifts do you have that feel difficult, like a curse? Who can you connect with to help nurture and grow your gift?

Enjoy the movie!
Pastor Elisabeth

THE VESSEL
dinner church



THURSDAYS
@ 6PM



CAMPUS
LUTHERAN



FLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

April 6: @ church

April 13: no FLY (Holy Week)

April 20: Laser Tag @ Big Apple

April 27: @ church

7-8pm

BREAKFAST ON
SUNDAYS BETWEEN
SERVICES:
APRIL 3, 10 & 24

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

prayers for peace in a time of war

*from wild
goose
worship*

On the people of Russia, that they might learn the truth kept from their hearing; On the churches in Russia that they might find the vocabulary and courage to speak truth to power, on the soldiers of Russia who do not believe in the carnage they cause. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Loving God, because you have the whole world in your hands, cradle gently those who are rocked by fear, shocked to a depth they have never known and frightened to face tomorrow. On the people of Ukraine: their children, their old people, their vulnerable adults, their babies soon to be born, Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

On the Russian president, and those who affirm his policies, we ask the judgement of heaven, a radical conversion and an end to their lies, scheming and murder. And for our own nation we ask for commitment to match conviction so that the pain of the Ukrainian nation be shared by us, their weary people sheltered by us, their peace assured by us. Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

On the people of Ukraine: their defenders, their advocates, those who care for the wounded, who sit with the despairing, who witness and report on the savagery and destruction, who bury the dead. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

**Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.**

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)
- **Endowment Committee**
 - 1 member to be elected at June 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting
 - Term of Service is 3 years (person elected is eligible to serve 2 terms)
- 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 firstlutheran Kearney.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; Heidi Andersen, co-chair
Paula Peterson, Ken Tracy
Cindy Wessels, Beth Forbess

APRIL MUSIC PERFORMANCES

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

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 Singing Dates

Sunday, April 10th – the 8:45 a.m. service

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Mark Your Calendars:
2022 Vacation Bible School
July 18th - July 21st
6:00-8:00pm**

**Special Church Performance and Party on
Sunday, July 24th at 10:30am**

***Sunday, April 24th: there will be a VBS Theme Reveal!
Don't miss it!***



NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL:

A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Families,

A lot has been going on in the 3- and 4-year-old classroom. We celebrated "G" week by having our grandparents come and visit. They helped us make a Gas, did some Gardening with us, and helped us play a Game of Bingo! The kids were super excited to share their school with these special people in their lives!

We also have had fun learning about dinosaurs and talking about transportation this past month. During the letter "P" week, we read *"If You Give a Pig a Pancake"* and made pancakes in our room.

An exciting update on Pumpkin Jack. After he spent the winter decomposing, we added a little dirt and stirred him up. Amazingly, we now have about 8 baby pumpkin plants growing out of the container!

We will now shift our focus to Easter and all the wonderful things God has done for us!

God Bless,
Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Lindi

Spring is Here! Hurray!

We have been learning about how to take care of our teeth. We also began to explore that there are poisons that we don't touch, smell or taste.

Our class had fun learning about rainbows. We were scientists and discovered how you can see a rainbow in a bowl of water, with a mirror and some sunlight. We also learned where light comes from.

Before spring break, we had some St. Patrick's Day fun. We had a wee leprechaun play tricks in our classroom. He or she will leave small green footprints in our room. They took our gold, but left it outside so the kids had fun picking up all the gold. We have so much fun here!

The following week we will talk a lot about being blessed instead of being lucky since so many of March books talk about luck. We made a beautiful shamrock and they wrote that they are blessed.

By the time you read this, we will be learning more about plants. Then the following week we will be learning about Jesus and what Easter is all about. We will learn how he died for us so that we may have eternal life. We will make a special picture of Jesus and cross to remember what he did for us. They will also get an Easter egg hunt. Happy Easter to all!

Lastly, we will be at the Hilltop Mall on April 5th in the late afternoon until about 7pm promoting our preschool! Stop on by and say hi! Our art work will also be on display too! My Pre-K class for the 2022-2023 school year is full and only a few openings in each class for the 3 & 4-year-old classes.

Have a wonderful April!
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Jane

APRIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Sunday, April 3rd – New Members' Reception 9:50 a.m. in Centennial Hall

Sunday, April 3rd – Worship at Brookstone Gardens w/ Sister Ruth Ellen 1:30 p.m.

Holy Week – April 14th – April 17th

Maundy Thursday, April 14th – 6:30 p.m. service with First Communion

Reception following the service to honor First Communicants

Good Friday, April 15th – 6:30 p.m. service

Holy Saturday, April 16th – 6:00 p.m. service

Easter Sunday, April 17th

7:00 a.m. "Sonrise" Service (north parking lot)

8:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Monday, April 18th – Church Office Closed (Easter Monday)

Wednesday, April 20th – Confirmation Bowling Activity

Saturday, April 23rd and Sunday, April 24th – Choir Cantata at all 3 services

Sunday, April 24th – Last day of Sunday School

Sunday, April 24th - Natalie & Friends concert 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27th – Last evening of Wednesday Night Activities

Saturday, April 30th – Women's ELCA meeting – Centennial Hall

Traditional
Ukrainian
Easter Eggs



First Lutheran Church, ELCA
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 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

LIVE Radio Broadcast Sundays at 8:45am: KXPN 1460AM

PHONE: 308-237-5544 WEB: www.firstlutherankearney.org

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