

THE MESSENGER

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

Dear First Lutheran,

In a recent blog post about living in anxious times, author Sarah Bessey writes, “*breathing... helps you remember who you are - a person of mercy and grace, love and peace: even in these anxious times.*”

Breathing...

It's a way to remember who you are.

And whose you are.

This remembering resides in the very breath of our bodies.

This remembering resides in the presence of the Holy Spirit among and within us.

As we enter the season of Pentecost, the lectionary text for June 3-4 is Acts 2:1-21. It's a familiar passage in the church. In summary, the disciples were all together in one place. Tongues of fire descended upon them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Gathered together, the disciples remember it is God's very breath that fills them, sends them, stills their souls in the midst of a highly anxious, divided, sin-filled world.

May we remember the same with every breath.

God's very breath fills you. Sends you. Stills you.

When it feels like the partisan politics and division will win, when it seems as though the world is stuck in war – geographical or cultural – when the only constant seems to be change, I turn to breath prayer, an ancient form of prayer. Breath prayer connects me to that room on the first Pentecost; it connects me to the Holy Spirit, it reminds me who I am and whose I am. May it do the same for you.

Here's how it works:

Begin by becoming aware of your body, in a comfortable position. Close your eyes and take a deep breath.

Imagine your own sanctuary: a real place or one in your imagination.

How does it smell? What's the lighting like? What do you hear?

Once you've quieted your body and engaged your imagination:

Inhale. Fill your whole self with breath.

Feel air in your lungs. And then say:

Lord Jesus Christ, son of God,

Exhale slowly and fully.

Guide me by your Holy Spirit.

And simply repeat this practice. Start with ten good breaths in and out, with the words.

In hope,

Pastor Elisabeth

TABLE OF CONTENTS AND RESOURCES

Pastor's Message.....	1
Table of Contents/Resources.....	2
Announcements.....	3
Mission Outreach.....	4-5
Office Updates.....	6
Council Update.....	7
Worship Themes.....	8
Within Our Beloved Community.....	9
Women of the ELCA.....	10
FLY.....	11
Milestones.....	12
Nominations.....	13-16
VBS.....	17
Preschool Ministry.....	18
Calendar Highlights.....	19

Prayer Ventures for June 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 Kits

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits of Care are a reminder to families that even in the midst of crisis, they are not alone. Though the coronavirus outbreak is forcing all of us to adapt and change our routines for a time, the mission of the LWR Quilt and Kit Ministry remains as strong as ever.

Please help us collect items for Lutheran World Relief Kits! First Lutheran Church takes pride in donating and assembling School Kits, Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits, Mission Quilts, Fabric Kits. Pens and pencils, a toothbrush, a quilt...ordinary items we take for granted become treasures in the hands of their recipients. Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted. Please do not donate items with any religious or patriotic symbols. Thank you for your partnership in putting them together.

For a complete list of items needed, visit <http://lwr.org/getinvolved/kits>. There will be a donation box at First Lutheran Church in the coffee area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMAGING TEAM

We are looking for volunteers to help in the Church Sound booth! How would you like to be trained to assist with sound, live stream, radio broadcast, church slides? Only cover one service a month! Interested in learning something new? Contact the church office for more information.

JUBILEE CENTER

We still need donations of tomato products, rice, and cereal. Father's Day is coming soon. Clothing is available in the Thrift Store. During the month of June there will be Saturday sales from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will provide bargains for furniture, books, seasonal and decorate items as well as records and games. Also beginning in July, the Thursday meals will start up again. More details to follow next month!

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRE-K – 5TH GRADE PROGRAMMING Coordinator Needed

- August – April (Advent & Lent off)
- Teaching curriculum provided
- Calendar & Teachers are set in place
- Co-Coordination welcomed!
- We need your help!
- Contact the church office (308) 237-5544



JOIN THE VISUAL ARTS 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!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We say goodbye to President Paul Bartlett and welcome Patrick Waltemath as our incoming president. Our three homebuilders for 2022 Elle Zimniak, Amanda Sedam and Lu Racine are often around on Saturdays and love to talk with you about their experiences. Please remember **June 25th** as the day First Lutheran Church provides volunteers and the noon meal. More details and sign-up sheets will come later.

On June 25, 2022, First Lutheran Church will be helping with the food and build for Habitat for Humanity. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. The day begins at 8:00 a.m. with a devotional break at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is provided. No experience is necessary.

MISSION OUTREACH

June's Donation of the Month: Canned Food or Boxed Food Items

Ideas: Canned fruit, applesauce, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, salsa, soups, stews, chili, Mac and Cheese, pasta, oatmeal, crackers, cereal, popcorn, peanut butter, salad dressing, herbs and spices

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

Sunday, June 5th at 1:30pm
Two Brief Worship Services

Volunteers Welcome!

If interested, please contact Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein.

sister.ruth.ellen.rebelein@gmail.com

MISSION OUTREACH (continued)

Mission Outreach Summer Project: Ukraine

From the ELCA website; On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Millions of people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities and pastoral care. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

In light, of this, our fund-raising project for the summer of 2022 is to raise \$1,500 from Memorial Day to Labor Day for disaster relief for Eastern Europe to assist with refugees. There are currently more than 12 million Ukrainian refugees in Europe located in various countries. 6 million have fled to foreign countries and over 6 million are believed to be displaced somewhere in Ukraine.

Psalms 9:9

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed a refuge in times of trouble.

Please place donations in the special collection boxes at each of the welcome stations.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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

APRIL FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	APR 2022	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 62,194	\$ 599,340	\$ 619,607
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (61,100)	\$ (672,686)	\$ (634,977)

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

Facilities Budget:	APR 2022	YTD '21-'22'	YTD '20-'21
Revenue	\$ 5,295	\$ 71,872	\$ 72,404
Expenditures	\$ (1,540)	\$ (33,494)	\$ (26,534)

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



Please Use the "Vanco Faith" app for Online Giving

A reminder that the Church's Electronic Giving was upgraded to Vanco Mobile when Vanco, our eGiving provider, launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. The old GivePlus Mobile has ended and is no longer available.

You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

IMPORTANT: If you have a recurring donation set up already through GivePlus, your donation will continue automatically. However, if you wish to change your donation amount or update your payment options in any way, you will need to do that through the new Vanco Mobile App so it is best for you to update to the new app as soon as possible. Your existing username and password from GivePlus should remain the same.

If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please stop by the church office or call us at 308-237-5544.

HAVEN'T TRIED MOBILE GIVING YET?

Now is a great time to test it out. It's simple, convenient, and secure. Go to firstlutheranearney.org and click on "Electronic Giving" on the homepage to learn more.

Please know that online giving is **OPTIONAL**. Traditional forms of giving are always welcome and acceptable. However you choose to give, we thank you for your contributions!

COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from Church Council,

I love the month of May. There are so many things to celebrate. The grass starts to green up and the flowers start to bloom. Another school year comes to an end which gives both students and educators a chance to recharge their batteries. In honor of the month of May, I suggest the following:

May our recent Confirmands continue to grow in their faith.

May Cinco de Mayo continue to be one more reason for me to eat Mexican food.

May our mothers continue their nurturing ways and may we continue to honor them for their unconditional love and never-ending sacrifices.

May our high school graduates look back on their K-12 years with fond memories and appreciation. May God continue to bless them and guide them as they begin a new journey.

May our college graduates be led by the Holy Spirit to find their way in this world.

May Memorial Day continue to be a time that we treasure the memories of our loved ones who have gone before us. May God continue to bless those who grieve with peace and understanding.

May God continue to bless First Lutheran and its members.

May the members of First Lutheran continue to share their time, talents and resources with the entire congregation.

May the members of First Lutheran continue to grow in God's grace, reflect Christ's love and live in the Spirit.

In addition to appreciating all that is good about May, I also want to look ahead to June. In particular, I want to emphasize two dates. We will have our **Budget Forum on June 12**. This is your opportunity to see what we are proposing for a budget for the next church calendar year. The annual **First Lutheran Congregational Meeting will be June 26**. Hopefully you will be able to clear your calendars and attend these meetings. We appreciate all of your support.

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.

BUDGET FORUM

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Centennial Hall
9:45 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 26, 2022

Centennial Hall
9:45 a.m.

WORSHIP THEMES

JUNE 5, 2022

DAY OF PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1-21; PSALM 104:24-34,35b, ROMANS 8:14-17 [25-27]

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world.

June 12, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROVERBS 8:1-4, 22-31; PSALM 8; ROMANS 1-5; JOHN 16:12-15

"O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine, and as we bring God's love and hope to our neighbors.

JUNE 19, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

ISAIAH 65:1-9; PSALM 22:19-28; GALATIANS 3:23-29; LUKE 8:26-39

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you".

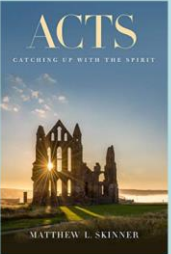
June 26, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

1 KINGS 19:15-16, 29-31; PSALM 16; GALATIANS 5:1, 13-25; LUKE 9:51-62

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.





The Return of...
"READING WITH PASTOR MICHELLE"

ACTS: Catching Up with the Spirit
By Matthew Skinner

Wednesdays beginning June 1st
7:00-8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Book is available on Amazon for purchase. If you need assistance, contact Pastor Michelle.

WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

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

Betty McMaster on her death.

David B. Wright on his death.

Tim Lewandowski on his death of (brother of Evan Lewandowski).

Kevin Fahnholz on his death (Rachel Leach's brother).

Larry Middleswart on his death (Alda Drew's son-in-law).

Bob Andersen on his death (Jeanette Andersen's brother-in-law).

Dennis Drabeck on his death.

Don Jobman on his death.

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a prayer request that needs to be prayed for immediately?

Are you not wanting all of your information public and on the church prayer list?

Contact the church office and Kandy will help you with this request. Let her know that it is for the "prayer chain". This is a group of ladies who pray privately in their homes for you or your prayer request. This information is not emailed, passed along or given to anyone other than on the chain.



Congratulations to our June Volunteers of the Month: Those Who Steward the Military Recognition Wall

We would like to thank Mike and Cyndy Rafferty, Meressa Bayley, Stacy Bean, and Wayne Karschner for their stewardship and refurbishment of this wall.



THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Pastor Michelle and Pastor Rick for their visits and prayers while Lavern was ill. Also thank you to Kandy Bacon for her many calls as well as to those who sent cards and remembered us in your prayers. Lavern & Lorene Krenke

WOMEN of the ELCA

Bev Vacha and Deb Schauer traveled to Spirit of Grace Church in Holdrege on April 23 for the Southern Prairie Spring Gathering. The day started with a short business meeting in which Deb was elected as conference coordinator and Betty Kempf was elected to the planning committee. Linda Jasch PMA, Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd, Hastings led the Bible Study on Philippians 4:12 -13. "I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need." Linda had us write our names on a piece of paper and then we drew names and then we are to pray for that person. Pastor Elisabeth talked about Campus Lutheran and the impact it is having on student's faith journeys at UNK. Melissa Boutwell, Holdrege is an English Language Learner in Lexington and she told us about the lives of her students, many from other countries.

First Lutheran will be host of the 2023 Southern Prairie Spring Gathering. Deb will be attending a planning meeting in June. Then we will be looking for people to help with various committees.

On April 30, thirty-three women enjoyed Fellowship with Friends at First. Although the weather outside reminded us of winter, the decorations inside reminded us that it was spring. Patsy Bruner, Sharon Liljehorn and Paula Peterson gave a reading of the 23rd Psalm and its meaning. We enjoyed listening to the piano talent of Faith, Silas and Annaliese Bogus. A wide variety of delicious salads were enjoyed by all. We ended the afternoon by playing Friendship Bingo, which allowed us to get to know one another as we tried to find others who shared common traits. Thank you to Judy Workman, Diane Londer, along with the Gloria and Abigail circles for decorating the tables, Naomi circle for setting up and making the drinks and Deborah circle for cleaning up.

Garage sale season is upon us. If you like garage sales, please be on the lookout for items needed for the baby care kits. They are especially in need of t-shirts size 3 to 24 months, NO onesies please. Flat fold diapers and sweaters or light weight jackets size 3 months to 18 months.

Events for 2022

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

July 6 - 7:00 pm - W.E.L.C.A. - General Meeting & Elections - Fellowship Hall Hostess - Abigail & Deborah

*The generous will prosper; those who refresh others
will themselves will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:25



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

FLY (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH)



Our last Wednesday Night Youth Group for the school year is May 11th! FLY Sunday School is on summer break. FLY will not meet on Wed. nights during the summer, but will get together for the following special events. Stay tuned for details!



JUNE

Wed 6/8 @ 9a-5p: Lake Day at Harlan Co. Reservoir | \$10

Tues 6/21 @ 1-5pm: Service Day at Campus Lutheran
Build a Little Free Pantry

JULY

Sun 7/10 @ 9:55a: Parent & Student Meeting: mission trip participants
Fellowship Hall

Fri 7/15 @ 9a-5p: Eat & Explore in Lincoln | \$20

Mon 7/18-Thurs 7/21 @ 6-8p: Vacation Bible School at FLC
sign up to volunteer: www.firstlutheran Kearney.org

Sat 7/23 - Wed 7/27: Mission Trip to Kansas City (must be pre-registered)

AUGUST

Sat 8/6 & Sun 8/7: Youth Led Worship Weekend

Wed 8/17: FLY Wed. Night Youth Group kickoff for 22'-23'!

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

FIRST COMMUNION APRIL 2022



*Cole Dean Banzhaf
Blake William Benson
Madden James Dutcher
Emersyn Grace Fritson
Ethan Michael Johannesen
Willa Jane Lewandowski
Colvin Christopher Mueller
Kaylynn Corrine Ostrander
Madeline Verna Sikes*

*Sophie Lee Bayley
Hendrex Lee Cochran
Isaac Thomas Eidem
Jens Timothy Pynn Himmelman
Harper Renee Lewandowski
Bentley Lee Martin
Drew Thomas Nielsen
Teagan Lee Schweitzer*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM MAY 2022



*Kamryn Benson
Anna Brandt
Izabella Buskirk
Natalia Cardenas
Gannon David
Blake Ernst
Kyler Harter
Abigail Isaacson
Harper Lewandowski
Trenton Mauler
Ava Thoene
Kealy ZumBrunnen*

NOMINATIONS

Congregation Council Candidates

Karen Emal



Member of FLC for 2 years
Involved with Campus Lutheran from 1970-1974
Married at FLC to Kent Emal who was a professor at UNK
Works at First Care Medical

Lee Fritson



Member of FLC since 1998
On Property and Management Team
Part of the Budget Committee
Part of the Audit Committee
Vice-President of Heartland Bank
Married to Michelle and has 2 children, Owen and Emersyn

Kyle Means



Member of FLC since 2006
Member of Imaging & Technology
Long-time volunteer in the sound booth
Past Congregation Council President
He and wife Leslie have three children: Ella, Grace, Keithan
Director of Marketing at UNK

Shirley Smalley



Member of FLC since 1969
Served on

- Worship Life
- Property Management
- Sang in Chancel Choir

Currently

- Tends to inside church plants
- In charge of Columbarium
- In charge of the Rose Garden
- On the building remodel committee

Worked for Barney Insurance until she retired

NOMINATIONS (CONTINUED)

Endowment Committee Candidates

Melissa Henning



Member of FLC for over 20 years
Served of Personnel Board for 2 terms
Currently serving on Preschool Board
Has helped with FROG and VBS
Married to Chad
3 children

- Makenna—freshman at UNL
- Cecilia—junior at KHS
- Bailey—seventh grader at Sunrise

Stacy Seim



Member of FLC since 2000
Married to Ben and has two daughters, Kyleigh and Danielle
Has taught FROG for 10 years
Has been a Confirmation small group leader for the last 6 years
Has been a College Planning Coordinator at EducationQuest Foundation for 26 years

Dave Zimmer



He and wife, Renae, have been members of FLC since 2005
Currently serving on Congregation Council as President of the Council.
Currently an usher and lector
Served two terms on the Preschool Board
Teacher at Sunrise Middle School
Coaches middle school cross country
Coaches girl's basketball at Kearney High

NOMINATIONS (CONTINUED)

Nominating Committee Candidates

Vera Lee Brodine



Past member of Congregation Council
Was a Sunday School Sub
Assists as a funeral worker
Retired Speech Language Pathologist
Storytelling Festival Committee
2022 State Vietnam Veteran Reunion Co-chair

Margene Dahlstedt



Past Congregation Council president
Served on
• Endowment, personnel, pre-school board, property and management, usher, call committee
Currently on
• Altar Guild, Communion Assistant, funeral work group
Currently a member of WELCA and a past president
Delivers Meals on Wheels
Member of Gloria Circle and a past president

Sandy Erpelding



Has served as
• offering counter
• VBS committee member
• Substitute FROG teacher
• Communion assistant and bread baker
• Usher and greeter
Married to Fred and has two daughters, Lexi (19) & Kylee (17)
Manager at Alley Rose for 30 years
Works at Kearney Coin Center

Deb Schauer



Has been a member for 39 years
Served on the Preschool Board
Currently on Mission Outreach Team
Member of Deborah Circle
President of W.E.L.C.A.
Retired special education teacher
Currently working as a job coach with Project SEARCH

Carol Stuhr



Has been a member for 30 years
Serves communion to home bound
Delivers Meals on Wheels
Helped with Jubilee Thursday night meals
Previously served on Nominating Committee
Helps with funeral lunches
Helped with VBS and Wednesday night GIFT program
Retired microbiologist with a hobby-job refinishing furniture

NOMINATIONS (CONTINUED)

Preschool Board Candidates

Amber Benson



Baptized and Confirmed at FLC
Currently serving on Preschool Board
Taught Sunday School
Speech Language Pathologist
Worked for Kearney Public Schools for 17 years

JoAn Berke



Member of FLC since 1994
Previously served on

- Preschool Board
- Care and Growth
- Worship Life

Is a Lector and Communion Assistant
Helped with Vacation Bible School
Sang in Chancel Choir and on Praise Team
Taught Confirmation
Has done Medication Assistance Program for 13 years
Has lived in Kearney since 1986

Christine Fisher



Member of FLC over 30 years
Baptized at FLC in 1976, confirmed in 1982
Member of Mission Outreach Team
Special education teacher educator at UNK
Doctorate in educational studies from University of Northern Colorado

Niki Peterson



Member of FLC since 2018
Substitute teacher for Confirmation
Social worker for Kearney High School
Married to Jim and has three children, Lexi (28) and Keegan and Karson (16)

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. Campers perform VBS
songs, hear the final VBS lesson, see the closing
slideshow and attend a party after the service!**

**To Register your child(ren) for VBS, order VBS Camper T-shirts, or Volunteer during VBS go to
our website. <https://firstlutheranearney.org/its-a-food-truck-party-vbs-july-18-21/>**



NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Families,

We just wrapped up another year of preschool here at First Lutheran. Our last days we talked about how God gave us five senses to understand the world around us. We had fun guessing different sounds, smells and tastes while being blindfolded.

We took a walking trip to Dryden Park for a picnic snack and some playtime. We also witnessed another of God's marvels as we watched our 'not so pretty' caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies. We enjoyed releasing them outside and watching them fly away.

As we watch our preschoolers "fly away", we are very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with these children! Each one of them touched our hearts and we feel very blessed to have had a part in shaping their futures.

We hope you all have a safe and happy summer,

Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Lindi

Hello June!

The month of May was celebrating how God made dinosaurs, parents, grandparents and our students. We made a dinosaur out of a paper plate and some brads! They absolutely loved them and gave them some fun names. They made their mom and dad presents for their day in May and June. We also finished our creation book! They have at least 29+ books in their book boxes to read!

These kiddos can count a fair amount of numbers, they know all or almost all of their upper case and lowercase letters, their numbers from 0-20. They know what a penny, nickel, dime and quarter look like and what each is worth. They can rhyme, sound words out, write letters and words, draw a bunch of new things, cut well with scissors and have seen how to make sentences this year!

It is so impressive how much they have grown and I have had the fun opportunity to see most of these kids grow in both classes. We are blessed with caring families and it shows in how great these kids are!

Our graduation was May 19th. We sang songs, passed out certificates, keepsakes and a goodie bag for each child. They got to play on the playground, blow bubbles, draw with sidewalk chalk and dance around with our ribbons. They also got to have popsicles and bottles of water while we played. It has been an amazing year and I won't forget these memories we have made and these wonderful children!

For this Fall, we are full in the Pre-K class and have 3 on the waiting list. Mrs. Lora only has one opening in her Mon./Wed. morning class. We start at 8:15am and end at 11:45am. We are excited to see how extending our day by 30 minutes will help parents with transporting kids and give us a little more time to play/work hard.

Pre-K will be Monday -Friday this year instead of just Tues.-Thurs.

God's blessings,
Mrs. Amanda

JUNE CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Wednesday, June 1st – Reading with Pastor Michelle Returns *Acts: Catching Up with the Holy Spirit*

Thursday, June 2-4th – Synod Assembly at Younes Conference Center

Sunday, June 5th – Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*Required Youth Gathering (Pre-Trip) for Students & Parents

Sunday, June 5th - Worship at Brookstone Gardens w/ Sister Ruth Ellen 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8th – Lake Day w/Pastor Elisabeth at Harlan County Reservoir

Friday, June 10th - Golf Scramble at Homes Golf Course in Lincoln, NE

Sunday, June 12th – Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Budget Forum at 9:45 a.m. Centennial Hall

Sunday June 12th – 17th – Pastor Rick and Pastor Elisabeth at Carol Joy Holling Camp with 8th grade confirmation students

Friday, June 17th – First Lutheran Church Red Cross Blood Drive at the Red Cross Building 12 – 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 19th – Happy Father's Day, Worship services 8:45 a.m./10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 21st – Service Day at Campus Lutheran w/Pastor Elisabeth 1-5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21st .. Porch Pondering at Pastor Elisabeth's house/porch 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 25th – Habitat for Humanity Work Day sponsored by First Lutheran Church (8-3 p.m.)

Sunday, June 26th – Worship Services 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting 9:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 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