

# THE MESSENGER

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

## The Business of Being Busy

The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is typically the busiest time of year for most people. Just think of all the extra stuff that is on our checklists (not including the regular plethora of stuff we normally have on our schedules):

- ✓ Buy the Christmas tree
- ✓ Decorate the Christmas tree
- ✓ Decorate the house
- ✓ Buy presents
- ✓ Wrap presents
- ✓ Mail presents
- ✓ Bake cookies
- ✓ Write Christmas cards
- ✓ Mail Christmas cards
- ✓ Concerts at the kids Schools
- ✓ Concerts at Church
- ✓ Other Holiday concerts
- ✓ Christmas programs at Church
- ✓ Buy the food for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- ✓ Make the food on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- ✓ Church on Christmas Eve
- ✓ Christmas party at work
- ✓ Drive around town to view the outdoor decorations
- ✓ Christmas Walk on the Bricks

That's a lot of extra stuff! And you probably have a number of additional items to add as part of your own pre-Christmas traditions.

At First Lutheran we too are planning to be extra busy. For example, from the beginning of Advent through Christmas Day (which is 30 days this year) we will have 20 worship services. Both the Chancel Choir and Sound Offering will be offering Christmas Cantatas. FLY will have their Holiday Brunch and Silent Auction. Our Sunday School will present their Christmas program on Saturday night and Sunday morning for which they will have had a number of prior rehearsals. WELCA will hold their Christmas Coffee. A Blue Christmas Service will be offered for those experience loss and grief. There will be worship services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. That's a lot of extra stuff!

In the midst of all of this business of being busy, we invite you to take 30 minutes on the first three Wednesday evenings of Advent (6:30 p.m. on Nov. 30, Dec 7 and 14) to join us for a reflective service of Word and Prayer with the theme "In Light and Darkness." Yes, that does add one more item to your overflowing list of extras, but it also an opportunity intentionally to slow down, to take in quietness, and to focus on the really important preparation we make this time of year.

Pastor Rick

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Prayer Ventures for December can be found:  
<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

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



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



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



Lutheran World Relief

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



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



[www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response](http://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response)  
800-638-3522



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

## Looking Ahead: IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals begin
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Handbell Christmas Concert
- Dec 7 & 14<sup>th</sup> – Advent Wednesday Night Services
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Women's ELCA Christmas Coffee
- Dec 10-11<sup>th</sup> – Cantata during Worship Services
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – FLY Brunch & Silent Auction Fundraiser
- Dec 17-18<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Programs
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Blue Christmas Service
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 5:00pm, 7:00pm and 11:00pm Worship Services with Holy Communion
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am Lessons & Carols

# ANNOUNCEMENTS: MUSIC

**HANDBELL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
Sunday, December 4, 2022  
7:00 PM  
Merryman Performing Arts Center  
No admission charge but free will offering

Gloria Dei Bells from First Presbyterian Church  
Chancel Bells from First Lutheran Church  
Acclamation Bells from First United Methodist Church



## **"Sing with the Angels"**

Joel Raney

### **Chancel Choir Cantata**

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM  
Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 AM

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## **SOUND OFFERING**

**Cantata**  
**December 11, 2022**  
**11:00 AM Worship Service**

# ELCA GOOD GIFTS



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSON OUTREACH

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ADVENT PROJECT-  
FAMILY FARM  
\$715

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HELP A FAMILY BREAK THE CYCLE OF HUNGER AND POVERTY — FOR GOOD. A COW, A COUPLE OF GOATS, A DOZEN CHICKS, TWO PIGS, FARMING TOOLS, SEEDS AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CAN CREATE A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A FAMILY LIVING IN POVERTY. WITH EGGS, MILK AND MEAT TO EAT AND SELL, AND TOOLS AND TRAINING TO INCREASE THE HARVEST, THIS GIFT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

# MISSION OUTREACH

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

By the end of December, the three 2022 Habitat homeowners will be enjoying the holidays in their new homes. Each of the three homeowners and their families and friends contributed 400 hours of sweat equity to their project. THANK YOU to every individual, family or organization that supported this ministry in any way during 2022.

We continue to look for individuals committed to making this community a better place for all by serving as a Habitat Board member or as a member of one of these committees: Family Selection, Family Support, Finance, Fundraising, Volunteers, Church Relations, Scholarships, or Site Development. We appreciate the special skills that our team members bring to their assignments.

THANK YOU to everyone who makes a contribution to Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity through Give Where You Live.

The work of Habitat continues year long, but we will be looking for new members of the Build Committee in March. In April organizations will be needed to provide meals on Saturdays. Volunteers will also be welcomed beginning in April.

## GOOD GIFTS: FAMILY FARM

Mission Outreach team is excited to announce that the Advent project focus for this year is providing Good Gifts Family Farms. You can help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good. A cow, a couple goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make a big difference. \$715 provides one family farm. Through this ministry the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America supports people in 88 different countries. Be watching for more information, ornaments, and Advent calendars available throughout the church.

## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH HOSTS JUBILEE MEALS IN JANUARY 2023 FOOD AND DRINK DONATIONS NEEDED**

In January, First Lutheran Church will be hosting and serving the Thursday night Jubilee Center meals. Our confirmation students will be serving. We will be providing the food and drink. Beginning in December there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for food and drink. Thank you for your consideration of helping such an important community outreach!

## December's Donation of the Month: Winter Apparel

**Suggestions:  
Winter hats, gloves, scarfs, ear muffs  
For children and teens ages 2-17**

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



# CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

## Children's 2022 Christmas Program December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

### The BIG Important Practices!

- Wed., Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – 7 – 8pm – Cast Only (After Advent Vespers)
- Sun., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – 2-3pm – Cast Only \* 3-4pm – All Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Wed. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – 7-8pm – Cast Only
- Sun., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – 2-3pm -Full Dress Rehearsal \*3-4pm – All Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – 7-8pm – Last Rehearsal with Cast Only

No practices on Sun., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> & Wed., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

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### **Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - 6pm & Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - 8:45am**

We will have a party after the 8:45 in the gym and then go sing a few songs at the very beginning of the 11am service. You may go home or stay for the late service. Please arrive 15 minutes early before each service to practice songs and get lined up in the music room, which is room 9.

Questions call or text 308-240-0872.

# 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

### Amanda Lewis

Lead Teacher for the Preschool

amandalewis@firstlutheranearney.org

## OCTOBER FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	OCT 2022	YTD '22-'23'	YTD '21-'22
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 65,074	\$251,906	\$ 236,480
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (60,530)	\$ (309,024)	\$ (295,062)

Total 2022-2023 Ministry Budget: \$757,672

Facilities Budget:	OCT 2022	YTD '22-'23'	YTD '21-'22
Revenue	\$ 6,987	\$ 30,121	\$ 32,442
Expenditures	\$ (3,275)	\$ (22,278)	\$ (15,531)

Total 2022-2023 Facilities Budget: \$34,100

## YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of 2022 approaches, please make note of our policy regarding year-end contributions. In order to be recorded on your contribution statement for the year 2022, contributions **MUST** be received in the church office **BEFORE 12:00 NOON on Friday, December 30th.**

If mailed, contributions must be clearly marked "Attn. Marti Brockmeier" and post-marked on or before December 31st.





# COUNCIL UPDATE

## Council Report – A ‘Yes’ Vote & Special Needs Fund

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

The biggest news from November came in the form of a ‘yes’ vote from the congregation. At our congregational meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>, we had 88 people vote in favor (compared to 31 opposed) of moving forward with the office remodel, HVAC upgrades, and capital campaign. Now, the capital campaign team will begin working on next steps. We will keep the congregation well informed of the progress with regular communication. Thanks to all who helped plan for this project, prayed, asked good questions, and voted. We felt God with us through this process and now we move forward with confidence.

At our November council meeting, we turned our attention to 3 more endowment requests, which were approved. We also spent time discussing the Special Needs Fund. This fund was established to help individuals within our church family as well as the outside community. When someone is in need of short-term financial assistance, such as help paying a utility bill, filling up their car with gas in order to get to work safely, or any other basic needs, our pastors and staff have these funds available. In recent years, we have actually provided money from this line to the Jubilee Center. Jubilee has a well-established process which connects with other services they provide to help people in need. So now, when members of the community ask our church for assistance, we can direct them to the Jubilee Center for a more well-rounded response to their needs. It also frees up our staff from getting caught up in the logistics of these requests, which can take up a lot of time and energy. It’s important to note, however, that members of the congregation who are in need can still seek this type of help directly from our church office. We are discreet with these interactions.

Please consider making a separate donation to the Special Needs Fund during the holidays. It is a fund that is used consistently, and currently running low. There are plenty of people living in poverty here in Kearney. God calls us to provide for those in need. Giving specifically to this fund is a great way to serve our community and honor God. Thanks for your consideration!

Speaking of the holidays, we pray that you all find peace and joy during this special Christmas season. There are so many wonderful events within the church and community to help you feel more connected to Christ. Please keep an eye on the calendar and find ways to get involved. As we know from the quoted words of Jesus in Acts 20:35, *it is more blessed to give than to receive.*

In peace,  
Kyle Means  
Council President

On behalf of: Kelly Russman, Shirley Smalley, Lee Fritson, Mark Kottmeyer, Mike Rafferty, Rachel Leach, Judy Henning, Karen Emal, Pastor Michelle, Pastor Rick, and Pastor Elisabeth.

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Kyle Means  
*President*

Kelly Russman  
*Vice President*

Shirley Smalley  
*Treasurer*

Lee Fritson  
*Secretary*

Karen Emal

Judy Henning

Mark Kottmeyer

Rachel Leach

Michael Rafferty

**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.



# WORSHIP THEMES

**December 4, 2022**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 11:1-10; PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19;  
ROMANS 15:4-13; MATTHEW 3:1-12

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and the meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptism to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

**December 11, 2022**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 35:1-10; PSALM 146:5-10; JAMES 5:7-10; MATTHEW 11:2-11

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



**December 18, 2022**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 7:10-16; PSALM 80: 1-7, 17-19;  
ROMANS 1:1-7; MATTHEW 1:18-25

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

**December 25, 2022**

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD,  
CHRISTMAS DAY

ISAIAH 62:6-12; PSALM 97, TITUS 3:4-7; LUKE 2:[1-7]8-20;

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live along us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God," O come, let us adore!

# WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

**Congratulations to our December Volunteers of the Month:**

## **Brookstone Gardens Worship Leaders!**

The first Sunday of every month, a small group of First Lutheran members lead worship at Brookstone Gardens. The group is led by Sister Ruth Ellen and joined with Eileen Kottmeyer, Carol Stuhr, Rachel Leach and Desiree John. The group leads in scripture readings, songs and communion. The residents of Brookstone give great thanks each week for the service. Approximately 5-10 residents attend. Thank you Brookstone Garden Worship Leaders for sharing God's word!



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

Barb Rasmussen and family on the death of her husband, Don.

Carrie & Jerry Stithem on the death of Carrie's Aunt, Frannie Carnell.

Bambi & Todd Van Horn on the death of Bambi's mom, Arla Jean Landholm.

Mary Wright on the death of her son-in-law, Lars Larson.



# WOMEN of the ELCA

Lutheran World Relief began in 1945 to help the people of war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Now it reaches around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. On Monday, November 7, women and men gathered to put kits together for Lutheran World Relief and then box them up. We were able to send 94 school kits, 42 personal care kits, 30 baby care kits, and 62 quilts. These kits and the quilts will go to help provide comfort for families who were driven away from their homes because of conflict. Thanks to everyone who helped box all the kits. A special thanks to Theress Bricker for spearheading the school and personal care kit making throughout the year and the labeling and boxing of all the items on packing day. Thanks to Alicia Tracy for organizing the baby care kits and to Sandy Pratt and the ladies who meet to sew and tie quilts. We would not be able to make such generous donations without your guidance and devotion to these projects.

***ALL LADIES of the CHURCH are INVITED  
to our WELCA CHRISTMAS BRUNCH  
DECEMBER 10th at 9:00am***

*For the Beauty of the Church*

Kris Ann Sullivan and Doran Bartels will present a program on the vestments and architecture of the Sanctuary. We will meet in the Sanctuary for the program then move to the Fellowship Hall for brunch.

## UPCOMING EVENTS for 2022

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. Christmas Brunch

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. Women's ELCA Board Meeting  
Classrooms 21 & 22

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> - Winter Retreat at St. Paul's in Grand Island



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)**

10:00 am—3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Joan Swanson  
(308-234-2835) and Evy Kuecker  
(308-237-5651)

**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

7:00 pm—3rd Monday

Chair: Deb Schauer  
(308-233-2669)

**GLORIA CIRCLE**

12:00pm—3rd Thursday

Chair: Judy Workman  
308-237-2781

**NAOMI CIRCLE**

7:00pm—4th Thursday

(3rd Thurs. in Nov.)

Chair: Judy Niemann  
(308)-234-4332

## A WORD FROM PASTOR ELISABETH

Dear First Lutheran,

My very favorite Advent poem for your reflection this season:

In Search of Our Kneeling Places  
by Ann Weems

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,  
an inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we experience our own advent in his.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we can no longer look the other way  
conveniently not seeing stars  
not hearing angel voices.  
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily  
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.  
In the midst of shopping sprees  
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.  
Through the tinsel  
let's look for the gold of the Christmas star.  
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,  
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.  
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and find our kneeling places.

May the hope of Christ's coming fill your heart,  
Pastor Elisabeth

# **FLY BRUNCH & SILENT AUCTION**

**DONATE AUCTION ITEMS  
(NEW OR HANDMADE):  
TO CHURCH OFFICE THRU SUN, DEC. 4**

**BRUNCH:  
SUN, DEC. 11 @ 9:30-11AM IN  
CENTENNIAL HALL  
FREE-WILL OFFERING**

**SILENT AUCTION;  
BID IN-PERSON AND ONLINE**

**PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE 2023 FLY  
SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO  
NASHVILLE, TN**

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

**8–12th grade**

# WINTER BLAST

**February 16–19, 2023**

**\$150 (scholarships available)**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY FEB 1**

**Depart Thursday, Feb. 16 @ 6:30pm**

**Return Sunday, Feb. 19 @ 2pm**

**Overnight accommodations @ Camp Carol Joy Holling  
Ski, snowboard, sled, or sip cocoa in the lodge  
@ Mt. Crescent Ski Resort in Honey Creek, IA  
(45 miles NE of camp)**

**Equipment rental (skis or snowboard, boots & helmet)  
additional \$40**

**Register by February 1<sup>st</sup>!**

<https://forms.gle/71SqqdmfHpCQfWxX8>





Thank you to all who have supported young adults through the ministry of Campus Lutheran this fall semester! From delivering sweet treats for Thursday night Dinner Church, to giving and attending Raising Spirits, to generous financial gifts that appear in the mail, to accepting my random requests for food, paper products, furniture assembly, and kitchen organization – your generosity is deeply impactful!

A special thank you is in order for our student president, Maddy Koebernick, who heads off to Waverly for student teaching in January. She met me for coffee when we both arrived on campus in fall of 2020, wanting some connection to her faith – and she has been deeply committed to our ministry ever since. Her grace, her compassion, her humor, her coffee delivery, and her hugs will be greatly missed. The nature of campus ministry is that it is always transitional, and the hellos and goodbyes are many. But that doesn't make them easy! It is with abundant joy and also with tears we send her off to the next faithful step in her journey. She'll be an amazing high school English teacher!

As the semester wraps up, more thank you's are necessary – for:

Our Stewardship Team who faithfully guide our work in ministry, mission, finances, and maintaining a complicated physical building;

Jen Puls who makes sure bills are paid, minutes are taken, and the lights stay on;

Young adults who keep showing up...

And most especially, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve alongside such beautiful humans.

In advent hope,  
Pastor Elisabeth

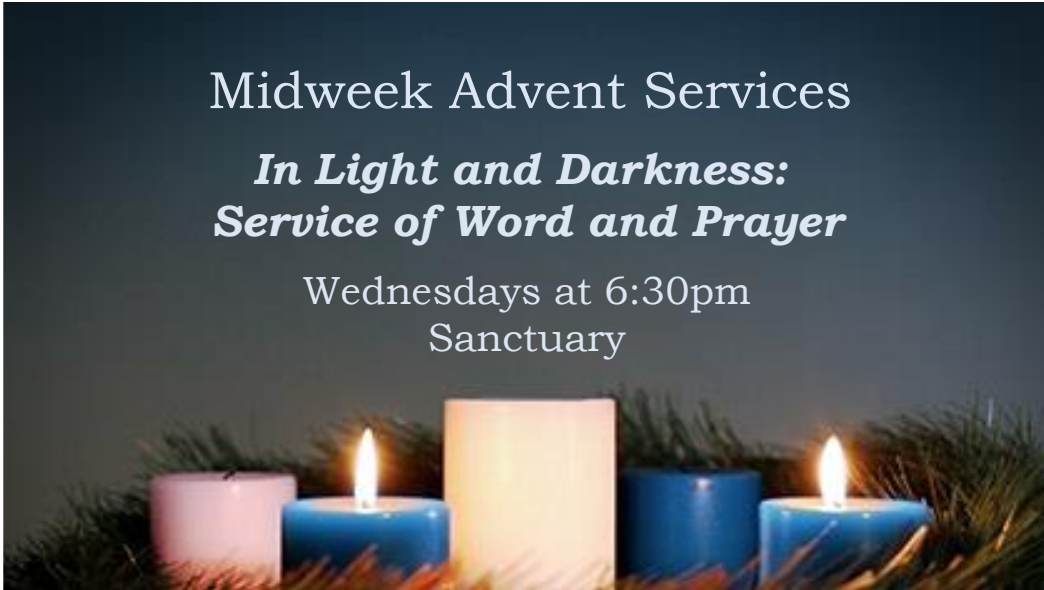


# ADVENT

Midweek Advent Services

*In Light and Darkness:  
Service of Word and Prayer*

Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Sanctuary



Blue  
Christmas  
a service of remembrance and hope

December 21, 2022  
6:30 PM



# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Families,

We are already nearing the half-way point of our preschool year, and the amount of progress the preschoolers have made is amazing! They are working much more independently and their worksheets and projects are looking fabulous! They have started to write their names on worksheets and have been doing some creative artwork in their journals. We are so grateful and excited to teach this bunch of eager students!

The month of December is all about the baby Jesus and Christmas. We can't wait to show our family and friends the program we have been practicing. We have a new skit this year which is a bit more challenging; but so much fun! We will also be talking about why we give gifts and some different kinds of gifts we can give to others.

While this month is a short month at preschool, it will be jam packed with all sorts of learning and fun. We look forward to spending a relaxing couple of weeks with our families over the holidays before we get started on our second semester on January 4, 2023.

We wish all our First Lutheran families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Mindy

Happy December!

We have been busy continuing to learn our letters, letter sounds, words and even learn what a sentence looks like. We have been learning about insects, sea creatures, land creatures and Thanksgiving. We have been reading our letter books. Books called *Hippo Hop*, *Katy the Kangaroo* and *Jungle Jim*.

They love exploring the science center and art center. They are learning to juggle and balance bean bags. They are hammering golf tees into a big pumpkin. They also explored insects, sea creature books/toys and land animals/toys. What has also been fun to see is how much they love our art center! They are cutting, gluing, drawing, writing words and creating so many beautiful things! It has been fun to watch. I have been assessing students during centers on their letters and sounds.

They know so much and in fact most know all or close to all of them! We had our first parent/teacher conferences in the first week of Nov. and they went so well. 100% attendance and the parents are really happy with how well it is going and the progress they are making.

We loved our late September field trip to Dmilaco. The students had a blast making their own t-shirt and getting to wear it before we left. They got to sing some songs to the staff and Denny sang a couple songs to us! Then we went to Trails and Rails in October and loved learning so much about life in the 1800s. Our last field trip for 2022 was at the Police Station and we have a ton of fun!

We started a "speaker of the month" and our first volunteer was a firefighter. He taught them so much about safety and what to do in case of a fire! The next speaker works with special needs students at UNK and we will learn about how each one of us is special!

We are preparing for our new Christmas Program and preparing for celebrating the birth of baby Jesus!

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

# DECEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

**Sat. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Worship @ 6pm,

**Sun, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** - Worship 8:45am/11:00am

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals 2-4pm

Worship @ Brookstone Gardens w/Sister Ruth Ellen 2pm

Handbell Christmas Concert @ Merryman 7:00pm

**Wed, Dec 7 & 14<sup>th</sup>** - Advent Services @ 6:30pm

**Saturday Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** – Women's ELCA Christmas Coffee @ 10:00am

**Sat./Sun., Dec 10/11<sup>th</sup>** – Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

Choir Cantata 6pm & 8:45am

FLY Brunch & Silent Auction Fundraiser

Sound Offering Cantata @ 11:00am

Children's Christmas Dress Rehearsal 2-4pm

**Sat./Sun., Dec 17/18<sup>th</sup>** – Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

Children's Christmas Programs

Laying on of Hands for Healing

**Wednesday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** – Blue Christmas Service @ 6:30pm

**Friday, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Church Office Closed

**Saturday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** - Worship @ 5pm, 7pm and 11pm

**Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** – Worship at 10:00am

**Monday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>** – Church Office Closed

**Saturday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** -- Worship @ 6pm

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** - 8:45am, 11:00am



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

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Kearney, NE 68847

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**OUR MISSION:**

**Growing in God's grace, reflecting Christ's love, and living in the Spirit.**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

DECEMBER 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: KXPN 1460AM**

**PHONE: 308-237-5544      WEB: [www.firstlutherankearney.org](http://www.firstlutherankearney.org)**

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