

THE MESSENGER

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are excited to announce that Stephen Ministry will begin later this year at First Lutheran Church. You may well have some basic questions about Stephen Ministry, and how it will impact our congregation's mission. Let me try to answer such questions.

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one, lay caring ministry. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Stephen Ministry involves three interrelated groups of people:

- Stephen Leaders
- Stephen Ministers
- Care receivers



Stephen Leaders

Stephen Leaders establish and direct Stephen Ministry in a congregation. Pastor Rick and Kandy Bacon have completed training to serve as Stephen Leaders.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Twice a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education.

Care Receivers

Care Receivers are people going through tough times who are being cared for by Stephen Ministers. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life such as experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential. When a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate mental health professional or other community resource.

The Blessings of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community.

- Congregations receive a practical and powerful way to respond to Christ's commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV).
- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a compassionate companion—a caring Christian friend who provides emotional and spiritual support.

Next Steps

We will be recruiting potential Stephen Ministers throughout this Spring and Summer. In the Fall, training will begin for those chosen to serve in this ministry. By early 2024, we hope to start matching newly trained Stephen Ministers with Care Receivers. We ask that some of you prayerfully consider being trained to serve in our Stephen Ministry program.

Pastor Rick

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Prayer Ventures for March can be found:

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

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



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



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



Lutheran World Relief

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



LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY

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



www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response
800-638-3522



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

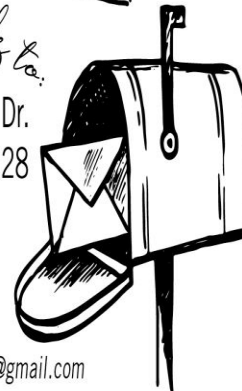
A MAILBOX FULL of well wishes for Pastor David deFreese

Our dad is retiring in March and we are so excited!
All of you have been a big part of his life and we'd
love your help showering him with well wishes.
Please send greetings and memories!

Thank you!

The deFreese girls (Elissa, Martha & Hannah)

send your cards to:
221 Barrington Dr.
Gretna, NE 68028



Questions, email: elissa.defreese@gmail.com

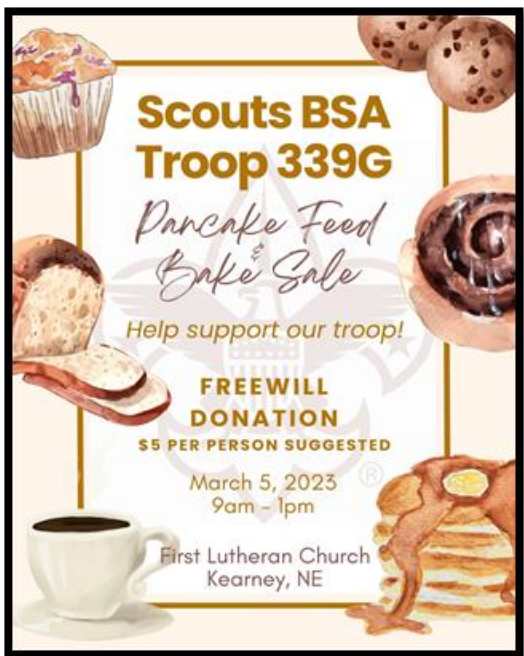
ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Communion Classes Spring of 2023 Wednesdays in March: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Classes are for 4th and 5th graders. We will meet in Fellowship Hall from 5:45pm-6:20pm. Feel free to bring your dinner down from Feeding the Flock.

First Communion will be received on Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30pm.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Rick or Pastor Michelle.



PIANO ACCOMPANIST NEEDED

For First Lutheran's Chancel Choir

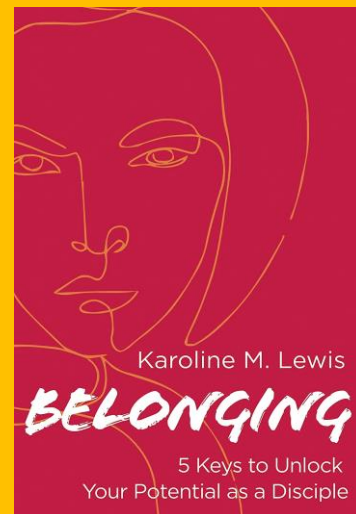
Rehearsal on Wednesdays
from 6:30 to 8:00
Choir sings at the
8:45 AM Sunday service



For more information on this paid position,
contact Natalie in the church office.

Wednesday Nights During
Lent @ 6:30pm
(begins March 1st)

Understanding and Living
Christian Discipleship using the
Biblical lens of the Samaritan
Woman at the Well
John 4:1-42



MISSION OUTREACH

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL CONTINUE TO HOST MEALS

First Lutheran Church will continue hosting the Jubilee Meals on Thursday nights through March. We thank everyone that has signed up to provide meals and serve.

The Jubilee Center is a nonprofit, ecumenical, community-based organization aimed at providing basic human needs. For several years they have organized Thursday night dinners for anyone needing a hot meal. We are one of four Kearney churches who take turns hosting the meals. Volunteers provide food, serve, and clean up after the meals.

In March, the Thursday evening meals will be fed by other churches in the area. For additional information, please contact Carol Stuhr, Paula Peterson, or Myron Riddle. Thank you!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

After a successful 2022 Build Season, the volunteers of Kearney Habitat gathered for its Annual Meeting in February. The following are members of First Lutheran Church who volunteer on a regular basis: Randall Heckman, Darrell Teply, Milt Kotrc, Fred Kempf, Delbert Sindt, Vicki Conn, Beth Forbess.

The Finance Committee chair, Deb Hansen, announced the ways donations are received. Thirty percent of donations come through members of the Carpenter's Club. The local churches including First Lutheran provides 17 percent of funds received for building. Local businesses plus several foundations including Wells Fargo, First National Bank, Parker-Hennifin and Bank of the West provide 30 percent of donations. Individual donations including memorial gifts brought it nearly 25 percent of the funding needed to build three houses in 2022.

We are looking forward to providing support and materials to our three homebuilders for 2023: Leopoldo Moya Rodriguez and Maria Deleina Aguayo, Ingrid Ramirez and Justine Gabbert. During March the Building Committee will assemble walls for the three houses as well as construct the yard sheds. Our first onsite workday will be April 1, 2023.

Adult Forum – Sunday, March 12th @ 9:45am

Mae Helen Jackson is the outreach and placement manager for [Young Adult Ministries](#) with [the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) and has worked for the ELCA for over 5 years. Mae Helen's role is to recruit and build relationships for [Young Adults in Global Mission](#) (YAGM) specifically, and ELCA Young Adult Ministry more broadly.

YAGM is a global fellowship program for young adults aged 21-29, providing them an opportunity to spend a year in accompaniment with one of ELCA's global church companions. For 20+ years they have had the pleasure of sending young adults around the world to accompany and experience life with companions in over 20 country programs. In 2022, on September 7th, YAGM deployed 24 young adults to 4 country programs for the first time since the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020. They are excited for the opportunity connect more young adults in these, and newer, communities this year.

If you would like to learn more about the program and would be interested in a conversation, please join Mae Helen between services for a presentation on Young Adults in Global Mission and ELCA Young Adult Ministry on March 12, 2023 at 9:45am in Centennial Hall.

MISSION OUTREACH

S.A.F.E. Center Collections

For over a year the Mission Outreach Team has helped our congregation gather monthly donations for the S.A.F.E. Center, a non-profit organization that provides prevention education, resources, and support to all people who experience abuse. Here is a list of what we have collected up to this point:

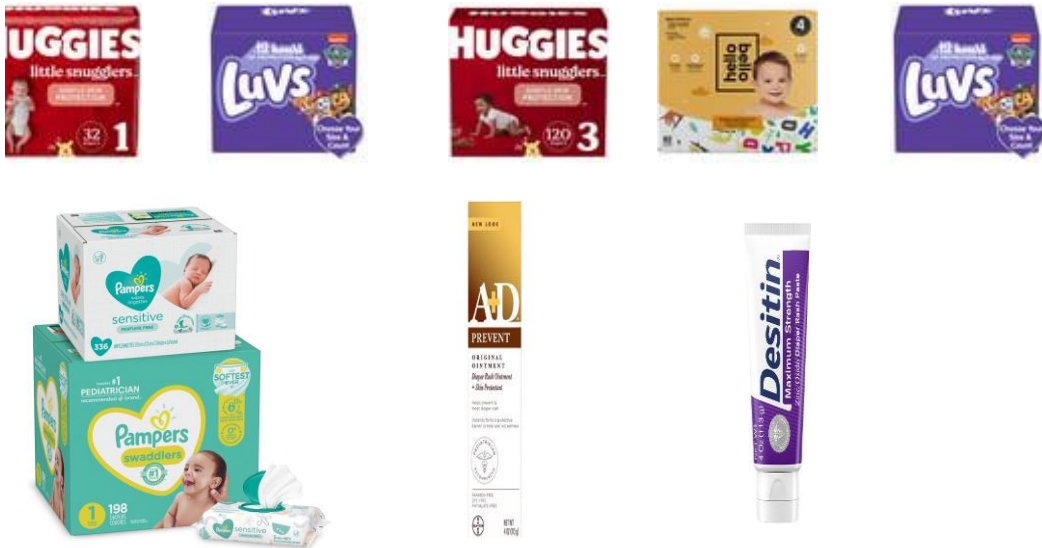
MONTH	COLLECTED ITEMS
February 2022	• Personal Hygiene Products
March 2022	• Paper Products
April 2022	• Diapers
May 2022	• Laundry, Dishwashing, Dishwasher Soaps
June 2022	• Canned and Boxed Foods
July 2022	• Personal Soap Products
August 2022	• Dental Products
September 2022	• Cleaning Products
October 2022	• Laundry Products
November 2022	• Canned & Boxed Foods
December 2022	• Caps and Gloves for Kids
January 2023	• Feminine Hygiene Products
February 2023	• Paper Products
March 2023	• Diapers

The Mission Outreach Team thanks all who have graciously participated in our S.A.F.E. Center collections. We look forward to gathering more needed items over the next year!

MISSION OUTREACH

March's Donation: Diapers

Suggestions: Diapers, Wipes, Cream



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

NEW MEMBERS – RECEIVED FEBRUARY 18/19



Evan Boyd



Dennis & Barb Gorr



James & Carolyn Jones



Terry & Eunice Legacie



Nancy McKillip



Tanner & Sydney Meyer



Barry Sandstrom



**Scott & Leslie Wagner,
Cosette, Clifford, Aspen**

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

JANUARY FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	JAN 2023	YTD '22-'23'	YTD '21-'22
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 50,690	\$ 452,646	\$ 417,902
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (59,005)	\$ (483,705)	\$ (475,022)

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

Facilities Budget:	JAN 2023	YTD '22-'23	YTD '21-'22
Revenue	\$ 5,455	\$ 56,499	\$ 55,802
Expenditures	\$ (1,761)	\$ (29,657)	\$ (27,314)

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

VANCO GIVING OPTIONS

FAITH

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!

COUNCIL UPDATE

The Stevenson Gift Keeps on Giving - and Personnel Decisions

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

In our February council meeting, we approved several special grant requests from Ministry Teams. As many of you recall, we received a generous donation from the estate of Dr. Stevenson back in 2015. Part of that gift was designated to be granted to Ministry Teams for mission and ministry requests beyond what their annual budgets allow. It was decided that up to \$15,000 could be granted each year for 20+ years. This year, we had requests totaling \$11,475 from Property & Management, Preschool Board, Worship Life, and the Imaging & Technology Team. It is a wonderful blessing to see Dr. Stevenson's gift stretched over time, and it will continue to make a positive impact on our church into the future.

Other decisions made by council include approving the proposed contracts for our Preschool teaching staff, approving the Mission Outreach team's recommended Synod Share amount of \$63,000 (up from \$62,500 last year), and lifting up names to be possible voting delegates representing First Lutheran Church at the Synod Assembly in June. At the next council meeting, five members of the congregation will be selected from our initial list to attend the assembly.

Another big decision that we made was to accept Personnel Team's recommendation to NOT continue the maintenance coordinator position as a full-time staff position. That position was vacated in November and was not immediately filled while we assessed the best long-term solution. Our hired cleaning crew is doing a great job with custodial responsibilities each week and the plan is to have them continue with weekly cleaning indefinitely. Personnel and other members of the leadership team are finalizing plans for addressing all the remaining maintenance and facilities needs through a proposed hybrid position. We will provide more information after a few more details get worked out.

We are entering a busy season in the life of a Church with Lent and Easter upon us. The Capital Campaign planning is ramping up and you will be hearing much more about that very soon. Also, our Christian Education season is entering the final stretch with the Affirmation of Baptism for our 8th graders right around the corner. Much to do and much to look forward to as the Spirit moves us in a positive direction. Your continued prayers and support are always appreciated!

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

March 5, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 12:1-4A; PSALM 121; ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17; JOHN 3:1-17

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

March 12, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

EXODUS 17:1-7; PSALM 95; ROMANS 5:1-11; JOHN 4:5-42

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath and meal – offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

March 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13; PSALM 23; EPHESIANS 5:8-14; JOHN 9:1-41

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

March 26, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

EZEKIEL 37:1-14; PSALM 130; ROMANS 8:6-11; JOHN 11:1-45

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadow of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism, we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.





Children's Choir Spring Dates

March 19th - 8:45am service – I will call you forward when it is time.

April 2nd - 8:45am - Please have your child come to the sanctuary at 8:15am to quickly run through the song with all the choirs.

May 14th – 11am – See you at the service! We will have practiced hard all through April!

Questions call or text 308-240-0872

Thanks!

Amanda Lewis

Talking to Kids: What is Lent?

Lent is 40 days long (it does not include Sundays) and it is all about preparation. We prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time to remind us of what is truly most important in our lives: Jesus. Things like candy, toys, phones, video games, and TV only give us temporary happiness. As Jesus would say, these are "treasures on earth." Instead, we should focus on the "treasures in heaven." During Lent, as we look forward to Easter, we can think about those things that might give us temporary happiness and ask ourselves, "Are these things taking too much time or attention from what is most important? Should I make more room for Jesus?"

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21).

WOMEN of the ELCA

On a beautiful January day, women gathered at St. Paul's Lutheran in Grand Island for the Women of the ELCA Winter Retreat. The day was filled with fellowship, fun, Bible Study and two presentations. Bishop Scott Johnson led the Bible Study on Psalm 146 v1. "Praise the Lord, Oh Soul. Praise the Lord." He started with the singing of the song 10,000 Reasons as it fit the theme. There are 10,000 reasons and many ways to praise the Lord. Psalm 137 is a song of lament. Lament is still singing just in a different way. Verbs dominate the scriptures and our lives. It's what we do and don't do.

Austin Dubas a college student at UNK told the history of Ukraine and it is crucial to Russia's food supply, farming, and shipping. Ukraine became independent in 1991 but in 2013 there was a riot against the president who didn't really want democracy. Then in 2021 Russia started building up their forces and invading Ukraine. We can help by learning about their culture and adaptability to any situation. We can help by providing humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian Red Cross, the World Central Kitchen and Lutheran World Relief.

Jennifer Rodewald is a Christian romance author from McCook. She believes the act of Faith is more than a bare statement of belief. It is turning to the face of the living God. Blue Columbine was her first book written in 2013. She has written 30 + books since then. She tries to write 15,000 words a day. Deb Schauer purchased 3 of her books and would love to share them if anyone is interested in reading them.

First Lutheran Church will be hosting the Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering on April 22nd. The theme is *You are Here to be Light* bringing on the God-colors of the world. All women of the church are invited to attend. Bishop Emeritus David deFreese will be the guest speaker. Pastor Michelle will lead the Bible Study. We will be collecting a tangible offering for Mosaic. Items we are collecting are sketch pads, coloring books, markers, colored pencils, card games, crafts (no small pieces), t-shirts(M-XL) sweat pants (M-XL), socks. Registration forms are located on the Women of the ELCA bulletin board. The registration fee is \$20, after you attend the conference, our local Women's ELCA will reimburse First Lutheran members \$10 for attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS for 2023

March 6 - 7:00 pm Board Meeting - Classroom 21/22

April 22 - 9:00 am Southern Prairie Spring Gathering - First Lutheran



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 and Keith Powell

Dear First Lutheran,

With gratitude to the Endowment Foundation of FLC, Keith Powell was able to attend the ELCA Youth Ministry Network “Extravaganza” last month. Below is his reflection from his time at the event in Anaheim, CA. Thank you for your support and prayers for our youth and youth ministry leaders! ~ Pastor Elisabeth

Thanks to the generosity of First Lutheran congregation, I was given the opportunity to attend The ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza February 3, 2023 to February 5, 2023 in Anaheim, California. The Extravaganza is an annual conference put on by the ELCA Network for youth and family pastors, leaders, and volunteers. The Extravaganza, known as the “E,” is a time for those who work with youth and their families in the church to learn, connect with God, and connect with fellow youth and family leaders from across the country. The Extravaganza gives the opportunity to listen and learn from many great leaders that are connected to the ELCA Network. This year at the Extravaganza we focused on the theme “Enough.”

This year’s theme “Enough” came from the bible verse 2 Corinthians 12:9. If you are like many of us at the Extravaganza when we first heard the theme Enough, we looked at the word in a negative context. When I first think of the word Enough the first things that come to my mind is, you are not enough, you’re not good looking enough, and you are not skinny enough. When you hear the word Enough you think of some of the same things I first thought of, or maybe you thought of some others, such as you are not smart enough, you are not strong enough, or you have had enough. Our negative thoughts from the word Enough come from the events or stories in our lives, the stories and events in which we may have been harmed or where we may have felt like we are not enough. Although it is sometimes difficult to do, let us not look at word Enough in a negative context. Let us look at the word Enough in a more positive light, like the Apostle Paul encourages us to do in 2 Corinthians 12:9.

In 2 Corinthians 12: 9 we are reminded that God’s grace is more than enough. We are also reminded that thanks to God’s grace we are enough. Thanks to God’s grace we are perfect as we are. God made each of us as we are, and we each are a beloved child of God and God loves us as we are. As we remember that we are enough and God loves each of us as we are, I encourage each one of us to remember to love one another as we are such as God does. I encourage us to let others know that God’s grace enough and that each one of us is enough as we are. I also encourage us to be place of worship where one does not have worry about being judged for who they are, as we each are a beloved child of God and God created each one of us as we are. I also encourage each one of us to always remember that we are each Enough.

~ Keith Powell



Speaker Joe Davis at the “E,” February 2023

UPCOMING TALK

I recently overheard this translation from a young adult at Campus Lutheran of 1 Corinthians 13:

“Paul was like, no cap, love doesn’t flex. Love doesn’t spill tea. Love is GOAT.”

If you can translate that, you must be younger than Pastor Elisabeth! If you can’t, join her – because we need to grow our translation and relationship skills to care for Generation Z in the church:



GEN Z & THE CHURCH

new date!

SUN, MARCH 5 @ 9:50AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Generation Z, or "Gen Z," are current 10-25 year olds. Join Pastor Elisabeth in the conversation as we seek to understand the role of the church in caring for Gen Z.

FLY

FLY

Save the date!



Nashville Mission Trip Important Dates By Friday, March 31: Complete YouthWorks registration paperwork to finalize our trip (for youth participants and adult trip leaders) — please submit one registration per participant at the link below!

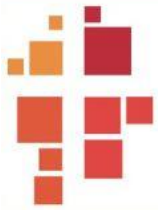
<https://tinyurl.com/82w6uy2p>

Sunday, April 16 @ 9am-11:30am: Our final trip fundraiser! Sign up to donate food and work the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p973d4k>

Wednesday, April 26 @ 6:15pm: *Required* parent and youth pre-trip meeting in basement youth room.

CAMPUS LUTHERAN

Lately with young adults at Campus Lutheran, we've been listening to others' and telling our stories of how we experienced church in our childhood. For many, an expansive view of God's love is brand new. So, we're going to take some time to be intentional about the Lutheran lens of scripture, discuss the "clobber passages" (the most quoted passages used to exclude the LGBTQ+ community from Christianity), and passages of inclusion and welcome. We'd love for you to join us for dessert and discussion! ~ Pastor Elisabeth



CAMPUS
LUTHERAN

what does scripture say about sexuality & gender identity?

**PART 1: LUTHERAN LENS OF SCRIPTURE &
THE "CLOBBER PASSAGES"**

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 @ 6:30PM

PART 2: PASSAGES OF INCLUSION & WELCOME

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 @ 6:30PM

AT CAMPUS LUTHERAN: 2715 9TH AVE

all are welcome to join the conversation!

WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

Congratulations to our March Volunteer of the Month:

Myron Riddle

Myron and his wife, Diane have been members of First Lutheran Church for almost 17 years.

Myron has been involved in many roles over the past years to include: Church Council, Personnel, and the Preschool Board. He currently ushers, oversees Memorial gifts, helps with Jubilee Meals, and comes in to do a weekly tidying up of the Sanctuary. Myron's enthusiasm and dedication to the church is evident in his smile and welcoming attitude. He is always a pleasure to be around.

We can't thank him enough for sharing his talents and gifts with us. Myron is just one of the special behind-the-scene volunteers that help keep First Lutheran Church looking its best and running smoothly.

THANK YOU

Thank you to First Lutheran Church for prayers of peace and comfort to the family of Janice Lindstrom since her death on Christmas Eve. Thank you for the use of the church's facilities and staff during Jan's memorial and especially Pastor Elisabeth for her comforting words and loving kindness.

Thank you to First Lutheran Church's congregation for all expressions of sympathy and memorials which were given or sent to our family. May God Bless all of you.

Dean Lindstrom and family

Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

Lee and Michelle Fritson & family on the death of Lee's mom, Phoebe Fritson.

Ken & Alicia Tracy on the death of Ken's nephew, Brent Tracy.

The family and friends of Tara Foglesong on her death.

Carrie and Jerry Stithem on the death of godmother, Linda Miles.



NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Parishioners,

Here at preschool, we are very excited about the coming of spring and getting the chance to be back outside again for recess! We are especially excited for March because we get to host our grandparents for our letter "G" week. We will be doing some Games and Gardening with them and hopefully we don't Gift them any Germs!

We get to enjoy an entire week off for spring break before we head into transportation week, which is one of our favorite topics! We will be making trains, stoplights, paper airplanes and steering wheels. We might even take a trip to the moon in our pretend rocket ship! And finally, we will wrap up the month with an oviparous theme. Can't tell you what we are doing because it is a surprise! 😊

If you get a chance, come by our classroom and check out the amazing artwork these preschoolers are doing! We feel very blessed to get to work with them!

Take Care,
Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Mindy

Preschool Registration is now OPEN to ALL!

Registration is online and can be found at firstlutherankearney.org/first-lutheran-preschool.

There is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. Openings in the 3/4 year old classes.

Preschool Hours:
8:15am to 11:45am

Hello First Lutheran Congregation!

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

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

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

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

Next week, we celebrate Dr. Seuss on the week of his birthday. We are already on the letter S. They have learned a ton of kindergarten words already! Some know 35 sight words already!

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

On March 24th, we have Paint Paradise coming to us! We can't wait!

We have a spring break just like KPS does the 13th – 17th.

Between March 20 – March 31st, First Lutheran Church's Preschool art projects will be on display at the Kearney Public Library. Come over and check it out!

Lastly, we will be learning about poisons and what makes a rainbow! We will be learning about different types of weather and see if March will be coming in like a lion or a lamb.

Many March Blessings to you and your families!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

MARCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Sat./Sun. March 4/5 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

BSA Scout Pancake Feed 9am -- Centennial Hall

Sunday School 9:55am

Gen Z and the Church w/Pastor Elisabeth – Fellowship Hall
9:55am

Worship at Brookestone Gardens 2:00pm

Sat./Sun. March 11/12 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

Sunday School 9:55am

Adult Forum on *Young Adults in Global Mission*

Centennial Hall 9:55am

Sat./Sun., March 18/19th Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

Bible Study–9:50am Centennial Hall

Sunday School 9:55am

Sat./Sun. March 25/26 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

Bible Study–9:50am Centennial Hall

Wednesday Nights at FLC:

Adult Bible Study -- @ 5:30pm in the Conference Room

Feeding the Flock (ALL are welcome) -- @ 5:30pm in Centennial Hall

First Communion Classes – @ 5:45pm in Fellowship Hall

Midweek Lenten Services “Belonging” – @ 6:30pm

Music Rehearsals – Praiser Bells, Heavenly Treble Makers, Chancel Choir

FLY following Midweek Worship in the basement youth room

Thursday Nights at FLC:

Jubilee Meals in Centennial Hall – ALL are welcome!



First Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Kearney, Nebraska 68847-3699

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OUR MISSION:

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2023

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: 8:30am – 4pm Monday – Friday