

THE MESSENGER

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

Transitions

The month of May is often a time of transitions. We have a number of seniors, some of whom are graduating high school, others graduating from college, but all of them will experience significant transitions as a result of their graduations. Our eleven 8th grade Confirmation students are also transitioning to high school. Our 5th graders will be transitioning to life in Middle School. Our 16 students in our Pre-K preschool class will be transitioning to kindergarten. Some of our older members are transitioning to new locations amidst their retirement. Pastor Elisabeth is transitioning to a new call. All these transitions can be both exciting and scary: exciting because of a sense of new adventures and opportunities; scary because transitions bring a lot of unknowns.

At a retreat last week where I was teaching stories from Matthew's gospel, I encountered the following meditation from Thomas Merton, who was a Trappist monk and a prolific writer. At a time of so many transitions, I think this is an apt reflective prayer which Merton has composed.

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this

you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

For all those who are the process of transitions (and their families), please know and trust that the way ahead may not always be clear or smooth, but you are never alone for the Lord is there with you and helping lead your way.

Pastor Rick

TABLE OF CONTENTS AND RESOURCES

Co-Pastor's Letter.....	1
Table of Contents/Resources.....	2
Announcements.....	3
Mission Outreach.....	4-5
Milestones.....	6
Office Updates.....	7
Council Update.....	8
Worship Themes.....	9
VBS.....	10
Women of the ELCA.....	11
A Word from Pastor Elisabeth.....	12
FLY.....	13-15
Campus Lutheran.....	16
Within Our Beloved Community.....	17
Preschool Ministry.....	18
Calendar Highlights.....	19

Prayer Ventures for May 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

**summer
worship
times**

SATURDAY, 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, 8:45 AM

SUNDAY, 10:30 AM

STARTING MAY 27/28, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to bring your completed intent cards to worship on the weekend of May 13 and 14.



Children's Choir Spring Dates

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

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE:

May 3rd @ 6:50 PM

**Parents of 8th graders and
their students**

**Dinner and Rehearsal
Please meet in Centennial
Hall**



Confirmation

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM Sunday, May 7, 2023

**SERVICE
8:45 AM**

**RECEPTION
9:55 AM
CENTENNIAL HALL**



MISSION OUTREACH

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Updates on the new houses for 2023! By this time walls and roofs are in place for the first two houses of 2023. This is when many volunteers can work on different parts of the projects at the same time. Garden sheds, siding, dirt moving, insulation, dry wall. Whatever your interest there is a place for you.

Save the Date: June 17th

First Lutheran Church will supply morning devotion, noon meal and extra volunteers to support the Kearney Area Habitat project.



An Update from our Young Adult in Global Mission Serving in the United Kingdom

Hello!

My name is Shelby Riedman. I enjoy nature, finding new ways to be creative, and spreading kindness whenever possible. I have always been excited to help spread God's love through acts of service and by meeting new people. I am currently in a year of service with the Young Adults in Global Mission program through the ELCA.

Bethany Christian Trust, through Time for God, have been my host organizations this year. My placement has been in a hostel for people experiencing homelessness in Scotland. I get to interact with up to 24 residents and different staff on any given day. With these interactions I have been able to strengthen my faith and grow in myself. I would greatly appreciate anyone who is willing to pray for me as I move through my last few months of service and transition back to being Stateside. I also run a blog that sends out bi-monthly newsletters and is my primary way of updating what's been going on. <https://shelbyriedman.wixsite.com/stwig>

MISSION OUTREACH

May's Donation: Canned and Boxed Food Items



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

MILESTONES AT FIRST LUTHERAN

First Communion Thursday, April 6, 2023



From left to right, Pastor Michelle, Henry Fletcher, Henry Denton, Kade Fuller, McCoy Lambert, Sierra Nonhof, Fitzgerald Shipp, Jordan Banzhaf and Pastor Rick. *Not pictured is Briony Huxoll.



This year's Confirmands at their First Communion!



April 18, 2019

Madison Chamberlin, Elle Cochran, Ella Means, Miranda Wright, Kayley Andersen, Bailey Henning, Micah Lewis, Preston Eilers, Preston Russman, William Fehringer



April 1, 2021

Danielle Seim

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

MARCH FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	MAR 2023	YTD '22-'23'	YTD '21-'22
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 53,365	\$ 570,491	\$ 537,146
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (56,351)	\$ (626,463)	\$ (611,586)

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

Facilities Budget:	MAR 2023	YTD '22-'23'	YTD '21-'22
Revenue	\$ 5,840	\$ 69,759	\$ 66,578
Expenditures	\$ (1,957)	\$ (38,225)	\$ (31,955)

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!

CHURCH FISCAL YEAR-END APPROACHING

May 31st will mark the end of the current fiscal year. Is your pledge current and up-to-date? Now is the time to do that "catch-up" as we complete this year and journey forward. Thank you for participating in all that God is doing among us and helping First Lutheran's ministry!

COUNCIL UPDATE

Capital Campaign and Youth Ministry Updates

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

Here's the latest happenings within the Church Council. In April, we approved the list of confirmands. It included 11 young people who are prepared to affirm their baptism on May 7th. The pastors expressed gratitude for their time working with these kids and we're all excited to see how their faith journeys develop from here. A special thanks to all teachers and volunteers who have worked with our confirmation students.

We also heard updates on the capital campaign to raise funds for our new office space and HVAC. There are many activities and events that will help tell our story and share the "why" behind giving. This continues to be a big focus among our leadership team. You should all have received – or soon will be receiving – your intent cards. We invite you to all pray about your impact on the campaign and how you feel moved to participate. One thing that has been surprising to us is how fast the campaign actually moves. It's not a long, drawn-out process. We're excited to hear how positively people are responding to the campaign already with a good start to our contributions received through early efforts.

Another update that was shared at the meeting related to the Nominating Committee. With the annual meeting fast approaching in June, we are seeking people to answer the call to serve the church in various ways. Among those elected opportunities are Council, Preschool Board, Endowment Committee, and Nominating Committee. If interested in having your name added to the ballot, please contact the church office.

And finally, we also were informed of Pastor Elisabeth's opportunity to accept a call with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL. This is certainly a bitter-sweet announcement. While we'll greatly miss Pastor E, Jacob, and Jens, we are excited for the path that God is calling them. Pastor Elisabeth has built a strong foundation with our youth and young adult ministry over the last 3 years. We will celebrate the work that Pastor Elisabeth has done during her time in Kearney and praise God for the path that has been set before her. Plans for carrying on in her absence are already underway. We will keep the congregation informed as new information is available.

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

May 7, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 7:55-60; PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 PETER 2:2-10; JOHN 14:1-14

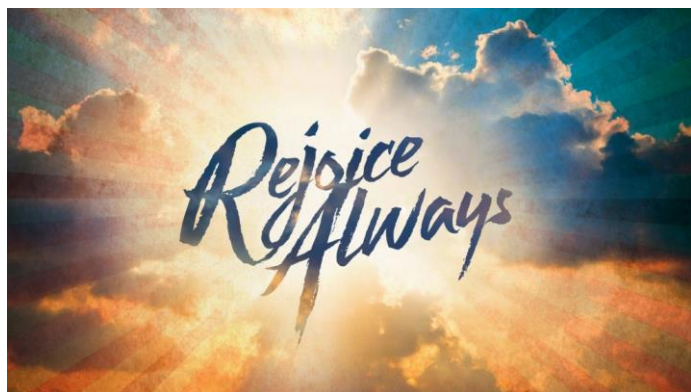
As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds, we bear witness to the risen Christ – our way, our truth our life.

May 14, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 17:22-31; PSALM 66:8-20; 1 PETER 3:13-22; JOHN 14:15-21

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.



May 21, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 1:6-14; PSALM 66:1-10, 32-35; 1 PETER 4:12-14, 5-6-11; JOHN 17:1-11

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

May 28, 2023

DAY OF PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1-21; PSALM 104:24-34, 35b, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3b-13; JOHN 20:10-23

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.



COMING IN JULY:

Vacation Bible School 2023

Join Us as We **Answer God's Call** Together



VBS: JULY 17 – 20 & 23RD

WEEKDAYS 5:15PM - 5:50PM:

VBS CHECK-IN & FREE-WILL DONATION MEAL

WEEKDAYS 6:00PM - 8:00PM:

VBS PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY, JULY 23:

10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE

5TH LESSON, PERFORM SONGS, PARTY AFTERWARD

In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community: the **Hero Hotline Headquarters!** Join us this July for First Lutheran Church's 2023 VBS, where ordinary mortals will become **Heroes** and discover that everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play. We won't focus on grown-up, comic book versions of superheroes at our VBS -- instead we will focus on how **we can be heroic in our everyday lives**, striving for the things that bring peace and build each other up! Our VBS Heroes will experience a fun, welcoming, high-energy VBS through bible lessons, music, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and snacks.

REGISTER A VBS CAMPER:
FIRSTLUTHERANKEARNEY.ORG

TO
VOLUNTEER:
USE THE QR CODE



OR GO TO
firstlutherankearney.org

TO
DONATE ITEMS:

SEE A LIST IN THE
CHURCH NARTHEX
OR GO TO
firstlutherankearney.org

So let's
STRIVE
for the things that
BRING PEACE
and the things that
BUILD EACH
OTHER UP

Romans 14:19

CALLED TOGETHER
TO SERVE GOD!

WOMEN of the ELCA

Part of the Women of the ELCA mission statement is to support one another, engage in ministry and action and promote healing. The Prayer Shawl ministry engages in action that promotes healing. Prayer shawls have been made by many individuals and organizations. Care and the love of knitting and crochet have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of God's love.

Many blessings are knitted or crocheted into every shawl. The creator begins with prayers for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed it is offered a final blessing before being sent on its way. Shawls can be adorned with beads, shells, feathers and charms to make it more personal.

Anyone can receive a prayer shawl without any cost to the requestor or the recipient given the ministry. To request a prayer shawl by filling out and submitting the form found at the church office or by contacting Theress Bricker.

As this is being written the Southern Prairie Spring Gathering is to be held on April 22nd. A huge shoutout and THANKS to all that helped make this event possible. Pastor Michelle for leading the Bible Study and the Closing Worship. Pastor Elisabeth for writing the closing worship program. Lil Larson and Jo Smallcomb for helping at the registration table. Betty Kempf and Alicia Tracy for serving as guides. Judy Workman for organizing the lunch and her helpers, Deanna Schwartz, Sharon Liljehorn, Judy Niemann and Karen Foster. A big thanks also to everyone who helped cleanup when the day was done. Many hands make light work.

A big thanks to the circles for providing items for the Spring Gathering - Abigail Circle for bringing pies for dessert. Gloria Circle for decorating the tables for lunch. Deborah Circle for providing the travel snack.

It was decided at the last board meeting that the July meeting will be a salad supper. We will change the time to 6:00 p.m. and meet in Centennial Hall. We are also going to invite ladies from Family of Christ Lutheran Church. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. We are looking for one or two people to serve as vice-president/co vice-president.

Circles remember to elect your officers and committee members for next year.



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



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

UPCOMING EVENTS for 2023

May 5th 6:00 pm to May 7th 1:00pm - Saved to Serve Opportunity at Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 5 - 7:00pm - Women of the ELCA Board Meeting – Classroom 21/22

A WORD FROM PASTOR ELISABETH

Dear First and Campus Lutheran communities of faith,

In August 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, First Lutheran took a leap of faith to call me as Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults and to serve part-time in shared ministry with Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministries, Inc. (NeLCM) through a generous grant of the Immanuel Vision Foundation as Campus Pastor at Campus Lutheran. My family and I excitedly accepted the call to serve God and God's people in Kearney, and our time here has been filled with many holy moments, plenty of challenges, and much joy-filled ministry.

Recently, I have been in conversation with an ELCA congregation in the Metro Chicago Synod, and they are in the process of extending a call to me to serve as their Associate Pastor for Engagement with a focus on congregational care across all generations. I have prayed, cried, and thought deeply about this possibility and have discerned alongside my family that this call is the next faithful step in my vocation as pastor.


This letter serves to share I will be leaving my call as Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults at First Lutheran Church as well as in my role as Campus Pastor at Campus Lutheran this summer. By God's grace, this gift to journey with the youth and young adults in both places has been a holy one. The relationships we have forged together hold permanent residence in my heart. The sacred moments, the laughter, the silliness, and the joys and sorrows I have shared with FLY in the basement on Wednesday nights and in the kitchen and sanctuary with Campus Lutheran young adults on Thursday nights have shaped me and will always be part of me.

Our last night of Dinner Church together at Campus Lutheran will be Thursday, May 11, 2023. My last weekend in worship at First Lutheran will be June 17-18, 2023.

I will lead the First Lutheran Youth mission trip to Nashville, TN, June 24-July 1 and will conclude my call with First and Campus Lutheran effective July 3, 2023. I look forward to celebrating what God has done in our shared ministry in the months ahead!

Kearney, Nebraska will always have a piece of my heart. Ministry among you has formed me into the pastor I am today as I prepare to extend God's love and care in a new place. Thanks be to God for each of you for such a gift of grace!

In hope,



Pastor Elisabeth

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATES



JOIN US IN WORSHIP FOR
BLESSING & CELEBRATION OF GRADUATES:
SUNDAY, MAY 14 @ 8:45AM

*AT THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP SO YOU CAN GET TO YOUR
CEREMONY ON TIME!*

Bring your family & wear your cap & gown!

Send your senior pic & future plans (school, work, military, etc.)

for our graduate slideshow to

Pastor Elisabeth by 5/7/23 ehimmelman@firstlutherankearney.org.

FLY NASHVILLE SUMMER MISSION TRIP

FLY Nashville Summer Mission Trip!

Thank you First Lutheran for your love, support, and prayers for our high school youth! You are invited to keep this page and pray for each of the youth and adult leaders by name as we serve our neighbors, live together in community, and growth in faith in Nashville, July 24-July 1st.

Anna Brandt
Mitchell Brandt
Bella Buskirk
Natalia Cardenas
Dante Cardenas
Laura Diets
Ethan Eilers
Preston Eilers

Trenton Mauler
Ella Means
Giana Mueller
Daniel O'Valle
Karson Peterson
Preston Russman
Jazlyn Turner
Kate Vinton

Grace Weber
Miranda Wright

Adult Leaders:
Keith Powell
Reed Wagner
Sophia Harder
Pastor Elisabeth

Good and gracious God, bless each trip participant in the work you have called them to do, so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may show your love to all people and glorify you by being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors. Amen.



**FLY NASHVILLE
MISSION TRIP
SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

FLY is collecting new school supplies in original packaging
for Covenant School & other local schools!

Most needed items:

- Backpacks
- Wide-Rule Notebooks & Notebook Paper
- 2-Pocket Folders
- No. 2 Pencils, Erasers, Pencil Sharpeners
- Rulers
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers
- Ballpoint Pens
- Child-Safe Scissors
- Washable Glue & Glue Sticks

DONATE BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
COLLECTION BOX IN NARTHEX

FLY SUMMER EVENTS

FLY

SUMMER
'23

For all incoming 9th-outgoing 12th grade youth:

Youth Group will gather
Wednesday nights @ 7-8pm through June 21!

Thursday, May 25 @ 3-10pm

Grand Island: Spring City Trampoline Park & Dinner @ Texas
Roadhouse

Cost (inclusive, pay at event): \$25 pay at event

Tuesday, June 6 @ 2-9pm

Grand Island: Island Oasis Water Park

Cost: Entry fee (\$9) plus cash for food stop on way home

Friday, June 16 @ 7-10pm

Mystery Outing!

No Cost

TBD (week of June 18): FLY Farewell Party at Himmelman's



CAMPUS
LUTHERAN

TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS NEEDED!

*Help us with hospitality by
donating paper products!
Deliver to FLC labeled
"Campus Lutheran" or drop
off on lower level of
Campus Lutheran Mon-Fri,
8:30am-3pm. Thank you!*



WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HERE AT FIRST

Congratulations to our May Volunteers of the Month: 8th Grade Confirmation Students

For three years, these students have helped in worship by being acolytes, ushering, and helping to serve Holy Communion. They have attended three years of classes studying the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Small Catechism. They have completed three years of service projects which include but are not limited to: serving meals (Jubilee, Feeding the Flock); cleaning the church; cleaning up at Campus Lutheran; participating in *God's Work, Our Hands*; helping with Vacation Bible School; sending cards and baking cookies for the homebound; writing generosity stories, among many other things!

We thank you for your time and service!

Kayley Andersen, Madison Chamberlin, Elle Cochran, Preston Eilers, William Fehringer, Bailey Henning, Micah Lewis, Ella Means, Preston Russman, Danielle Seim and Miranda Wright

Prayers of Peace and Comfort for...

The family and friends of Pastor Tom Wilson, who died February 5, 2023 in Pennsylvania. Some of you may remember he was the pastor at Campus Lutheran from 2004-2012.

Jerry and Carrie Stithem on the death of Jerry's Aunt, Patty Welch.

Marvel Heucke on the death of Marvel's sister, Carol McAllister.

Mary Wright on the death of her husband, Frank.

Shawn and Rachel Leach and family on the death of Rachel's uncle, Sonny Dankenbring.

Did you know that you can order a rose bush or a door stop stone in memory of someone at First Lutheran Church? The knock out rose bushes are \$39.99 and the door stop stones are \$30.00. It takes about 10 days to get the stones here. You can inscribe the door stone with "In memory of _____" or In Remembrance of _____" If something else is desired, please call

Shirley Smalley at (308) 293-4815 with your idea and she can see if it can be done.

The roses are planted south of the south kitchen. The stones are now arranged in the circle of stones where the bell tower used to be located (southwest of the roses). Contact Shirley with any questions.



NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FLC

Hello First Lutheran Parishioners,

Spring is here and we are feeling new energy here at preschool! These kids have grown so much this year and teaching them has gotten more and more exciting as we can have some amazing conversations now!

We have finished the alphabet letters and are now starting to put them together to make words and even some simple books. It is so rewarding to see these kids read their first books by putting their finger on each word and sounding out the letters...all by themselves!!! YAY!!

In May, we have our final parent teachers' conferences, and we can't wait to brag about these special preschoolers! We will wrap up our year by learning about our 5 senses and then have some special time to celebrate before we say goodbye for the summer.

As with all milestones, it is with mixed emotions that we celebrate and look back at the incredible journey but also look ahead to the exciting future for these preschoolers. Mrs. Mindy and I have been so blessed to work with these wonderful children of God. They will always hold a special place in our hearts!

Wishing you all a Happy Summer,
Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Mindy

Happy May!

The week after Easter, we began planting our seeds and tending to them. We also have extra soil to continue to plant and play with. We started to learn our songs for graduation! It is going to be here before we know. We pretended it was raining out and we opened our umbrellas while I used spray bottles to make it rain! They always get a kick out of this. It is the beginnings of a gentle water fight. ☺

The next week we celebrate our Earth by learning ways we can take care of it! We took a field trip to the Recycling Center on the 21st and also had our Speaker of the Month come. It was a very busy day, as most days are, here in preschool. They brought yo-yos for this letter Y week too.

The following week, we had fun with transportation! It is fun to learn about all kinds of inventions that have been made! We had another great dad speaking to the class. They are learning so much! They also got to bring some remote control something to play with at recess!

We started our year learning about the 7 days of creation and in May we come back around to talk more about it. The first week in May, we will talk about that God made their parents and grandparents and how much we love them! Then we will celebrate, on the last week, that God made them! We are so grateful that God made all these children and families!

This is our second go at having end-of-the - year parent/teacher conferences with their child(ren). We want to sit down and celebrate all their growth! It was a wonderful time last year and I am sure it will be again!

Plus, their graduation will happen the following week here by our playground! So much excitement to come!

Go take care of God's planet!
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

MAY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Wed. May 3 Adult Bible Study, Chancel Choir
8th Grade students and their parents meet with Pastor Rick and Pastor Michelle beginning at 6:50 pm in Centennial Hall
FLY @ 7pm

Sat./Sun. May 6/7 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am
Inspiration Team Prayer Vigil 8am-2pm
Affirmation of Baptism Service 8:45am
Reception 9:55am in Centennial Hall
Worship at Brookestone Gardens at 2:00pm

Wed. May 10 Adult Bible Study, Chancel Choir
Imaging Team 6pm
FLY @ 7pm

Sat./Sun., May 13/14 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am
High School Graduation Recognition 8:45am

Wed. May 17 Adult Bible Study, Chancel Choir
FLY @ 7pm

Sat./Sun. May 20/21 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 11:00am

Wed. May 24 Adult Bible Study, Chancel Choir
FLY @ 7pm

Sat./Sun. May 27/28 Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 10:30 am

Mon. May 29 Memorial Day – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

First weekend of Summer Worship
Times will be on May 27/28:
Late service will begin at 10:30 am

First Lutheran Church, ELCA
3315 G Avenue
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

MAY 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