

---

AUGUST 2023

---

# THE MESSENGER

The Monthly Newsletter of First Lutheran Church, ELCA

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



## GO AND... SHARE YOUR STORY

WRITTEN BY NEBRASKA SYNOD STAFF

*Inside this issue:*

---

"GO AND..." INITIATIVE 1  
RESOURCES 2  
OUR COMMUNITY 3-4  
MISSION OUTREACH 5-8  
STAFFING UPDATES 9  
COUNCIL 10  
WORSHIP THEMES 11  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 12-13  
FLY MISSION TRIP 14-15  
GOLF TOURNEY 16  
PRESCHOOL 17  
WELCA 18  
FINANCES 19  
LEADERSHIP 20  
CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS 21

Children freely share their stories – often full of actions, sound effects, and details (sometimes minute) that bring a story to life. We all have a story to share: stories of families, friendships, histories, and faith. We connect the dots and see our connections.

**Questions to Consider:**

- When was the last time you listened to a child tell a story? What did you hear?
- What is a biblical story that connects with your own story?
- What is your story? Where are you GOING to share your story?

**Prayer:** Creator God, our story starts and ends with you. Give us the wisdom to see where and how we might share our stories and the courage to share them. Amen.

**Suggested Song:** Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)

Ready for more listening resources? Check out:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/go-and/share-your-story/>

# RESOURCES

**ELCA:** WWW.ELCA.ORG  
800-638-3522

**NEBRASKA SYNOD:** WWW.NEBRASKASYNOD.ORG  
402-896-5311

**NEBRASKA LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY:**  
WWW.NELCM.COM (308) 234-1828

**NEBRASKA LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES:**  
WWW.NLOM.ORG 402-944-2544

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF:** WWW.LWR.ORG  
800-597-5972

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE:** WWW.ELCA.ORG/OUR-WORK/RELIEF-AND-DEVELOPMENT/LUTHERAN-DISASTER-RESPONSE  
800-638-3522



**PRAYER VENTURES FOR AUGUST CAN BE FOUND:**  
**[HTTPS://WWW.ELCA.ORG/RESOURCES/PRAYER-VENTURES](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.**

## WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

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

Adam and Stefani Wegner on the death of Adam's godmother,  
Vickie Simmonson.



Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you for your gracious celebration of the end of my call and our family's time at First Lutheran last month! It was a joy serving and growing together in faith. We are deeply appreciative of the kind words, support, gifts, and encouragement of the congregation of First Lutheran.

Thank you!

In God's peace,

Pastor Elisabeth, Jacob, & Jens Himmelman



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**  
Beginning this Fall

## WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY



### VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH VBS Volunteers

August's Volunteers of the Months are those fabulous Vacation Bible School Volunteers! Stefani Wegner and her hard working team set up tables, decorations, had meetings, and answered numerous questions about how she wanted VBS to set up. Stefani meticulously arranged VBS down to the minute for programming time. Hero Hotline was about everyday heroes. We invited a flight nurse, a K9 Police Officer (and his dog, Murphy), and a fireman to come and visit with the kids about their jobs and how they help in their daily lives. We couldn't do such a wonderful job without our **many volunteers** who give their own time and help out with our **90 participants**. For all the donations they donated, to helping out in the kitchen, serving snacks, helping register new families, selling t-shirts, doing arts and crafts, being a game leader, singing songs, or even being a puppeteer. We have many hands in the pot working together and behind the scenes to make this a fantastic experience for the younger generous in letting them know how much God loves them. Thank you each and all for your help and support with this endeavor. You are all truly heroes in helping out!





# MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Building Committee and volunteers continue to make progress on the three houses. Siding on the first two houses and garden sheds have been painted, drywall is installed and painted. Fencing around the yards is going in. House #3 has walls and a roof. There will be a need for volunteers to help install windows and doors. There is landscaping to do as well as interior painting. Flooring and cabinets will be installed in August. There is always room for more volunteers.

The other news for our Habitat board is the addition of three new board members. Rick and Raeanna Mitchell were support partners for a homeowner two years ago. Rick is the Kearney High School Band Director and Raeanna is part of the office staff at New Life. The third new board member is Mike Mertz, who works for Royal Engineered Composites. We look forward to putting their skills to good use for Kearney Habitat.

## "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."

Celebrating 10 years on the 10th! This year marks the 10th anniversary of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. Scheduled for Sept. 10, our annual day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) —

one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. The ELCA's first dedicated day of service, in September 2013, was held to celebrate the church's 25th anniversary. Through the years we have embraced "God's work. Our hands." Sunday as a way to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Please plan to join our Mission Outreach Team on Sunday September 10 for God's Work—Our Hands Day. We will gather for lunch after the 11:00 worship service. Following lunch we will go to a number of service sites in Kearney.



# MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

## SUMMER PROJECT - ROYAL FAMILY KIDS DONATIONS ARE STILL WELCOME!



MISSION OUTREACH HAS  
CHOSEN ROYAL FAMILY  
KIDS CAMP-KEARNEY AS  
THE 2023 SUMMER  
PROJECT

THIS CHRISTIAN LED ORGANIZATION DOES  
MONTHLY MENTORING DURING THE SCHOOL  
YEAR AND THEN SUMMER CAMPS AND  
CHILDREN'S CLUBS FOR ABUSED,  
ABANDONED, AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN  
WHO ARE IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.



OUR  
VBS SUPER MEER  
LAUNCHER

RAISED

**\$1,762.18**

FOR ROYAL FAMILY  
KIDS CAMP -  
KEARNEY  
SCHOLARSHIPS



## MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES: Lutheran World Relief

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits of Care are a reminder to families that even in the midst of crisis, they are not alone.

Please help us collect items for Lutheran World Relief Kits! First Lutheran Church takes pride in donating and assembling School Kits, Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits, Mission Quilts, Fabric Kits. Pens and pencils, a toothbrush, a quilt...ordinary items we take for granted become treasures in the hands of their recipients. The items you send will be cherished and used by people who take nothing for granted, for whom a simple bar of soap is special. Your gifts of time and resources are beautiful expressions of God's love and grace to those in greatest need. Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted. Please do not donate items with any religious or patriotic symbols. Thank you for your partnership in putting them together.

For a complete list of items needed, visit <http://lwr.org/getinvolved/kits>. Any questions please call Theress Bricker 308-233-2469. There will be a donation box at First Lutheran Church in the cafe area.



### Help Us Fill 100 School Kits!

We need:

- 400 70-page spiral notebooks
- Blunt safety scissors
- 16 or 24 pack of crayons
- Large erasers
- Small pencil sharpeners
- Assistance needed to sew cloth bags



For a complete list go to [LWR.org](http://LWR.org)

Call Theress Bricker (308-233-2469) for more information

Boxes for donations are in the cafe

### Personal Care Kits

- Each kit needs to include the following:
- One light weight bath size towel in a dark color
- Two or three bath size bars of soap
- One adult-size toothbrush
- One sturdy comb
- One metal nail clipper



All items must be new and can be left in the collection baskets in the cafe.

Call Theress Bricker (308-233-2469) for more information.



## **MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES: S.A.F.E. Center**

### **AUGUST'S S.A.F.E. CENTER DONATION: CLEANING PRODUCTS**



IDEAS: CLOROX WIPES, FLOOR CLEANER, TOILET BOWL CLEANER, SPONGES, WINDEX, FURNITURE POLISH, POWDER CLEANSERS

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 STREET SUITE 14  
KEARNEY, NE 68847  
308-237-2599/CRISIS LINE: 877-237-2513



## Office Staffing Updates

### **Marti Brockmeier Begins a New Chapter**



It is with sadness that we inform you of Marti Brockmeier's resignation as First Lutheran's bookkeeper. She assures us that this is not a decision she entered into lightly. This will be the Brockmeiers' final year in the Kearney Public School system, and Marti looks forward to participating fully in her daughter's senior year as well as preparing for the empty nest chapter of her life. Her final day in the office will be August 24th.

We will be starting a search process very soon for someone to take over the bookkeeping duties. However, Marti is irreplaceable!

### **Ashlea Denton Joins Staff as Faith in Action Coordinator and Interim FLY Coordinator**



It is with great joy that we announce the hiring of Ashlea Combs Denton as our Faith in Action Coordinator. As well, Ashlea has enthusiastically agreed to serve as our Transitional Youth Ministry Coordinator with FLY for up to one year.

Ashlea grew up in Kearney and her family joined First Lutheran when she was in elementary school, participating in Sunday School and Confirmation. She spent her high school years participating in FLY. After that, she went on to Northwestern College in Iowa to earn a BA in Religion and Cultural Studies. Her educational background also includes a Master of Arts in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Some of her previous work experience includes an internship in Jackson, Mississippi, where she served as support staff for the Homeless Ministry and community development. She also served with AmeriCorps in New Orleans, was a supervisor for the Boys and Girls Club in Chadron, as well as a youth group leader in Minnesota. Ashlea and her husband, Chris, returned to the Kearney area and grew their family roots with their children Henry, Magdalena, and Wilhelmina.

In her position of Faith in Action Coordinator (part-time), Ashlea will be recruiting volunteers; coordinate Christian Education programming and new programs; among many other things. In her position as Transitional Youth Ministry Coordinator, Ashlea will guide adult volunteers in their work with the youth, lead FLY Wednesday evenings and some Sunday mornings, and coordinate the logistics of the Youth Gathering in 2024. Pastor Rick will be the staff member accompanying our youth to New Orleans with parent volunteers.

We give thanks to God for planting such a gift in our midst to shape the new Faith in Action position as well as shepherding our youth through this time of change. Ashlea's official first day will be August 1st. Please welcome her warmly.

## A COUNCIL UPDATE

### **Staff Changes, Building Committee, and Call Process**

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

Our new staff structure continues to take shape with the addition of Ashlea Denton as our Faith in Action Coordinator. This new position will focus on recruiting volunteers and creating/enhancing programming at First Lutheran. Additionally, Ashlea has agreed to be the Transitional FLY (First Lutheran Youth) Coordinator for the upcoming year while we enter a call process for an associate pastor or deacon.

While that position has now been filled, we sadly accepted Marti Brockmeier's resignation as bookkeeper. Marti served faithfully in that role for 9.5 years and was a continuous bright spot in the office. Her last day in the office will be August 24th and she will be instrumental in training her replacement. A search for that replacement is already underway.

Speaking of bookkeeping, we have been focused on cleaning up our escrow accounts. The church has dozens of escrow lines with restricted funds dedicated to them for things like computer technology needs, pastor book allowances, camp scholarships, and bell choir, just to name a few. These escrow lines are not tied to the annual budget in any way, rather they are funds that can be accessed on an as-needed basis. Over the years, some escrow lines have gone unused with money just sitting there. Marti is helping us determine which lines can be closed out and where those funds can be transferred and better utilized.

Additionally, the council spent time discussing next steps for the capital campaign. The Building Committee will be meeting soon to explore next steps in the construction process. There are fairly urgent needs related to the HVAC system that we'd like to address as soon as possible. This committee will be instrumental in leading this effort.

Finally, as mentioned above we have our transitional FLY coordinator in place for the upcoming year, but we will be starting a call process for the next associate pastor or deacon soon. We have a meeting set with a synod representative who will go over the next steps for that. Be on the lookout for information related to the call committee. We ask that you all prayerfully consider volunteering to serve on this team. The council will select a call committee from the list of all who are interested.

We are eager to see educational programming like FROG, Sunday School, and Confirmation start back up. It's spiritually uplifting to see full classrooms and event spaces throughout the church. A special thank you to all our volunteers who help teach, prepare Wednesday evening meals, assist with worship, or fill a committee role. Our ministry can't be successful without your dedication. As always, we appreciate the support and prayers from the congregation.

In peace,

Kyle Means

Council President

*On behalf of Kelly Russman (VP), Lee Fritson (Secretary), Shirley Smalley (Treasurer), Judy Henning, Karen Emal, Bill Schmidt, PJ Bartels, Deb Schauer, Pastor Michelle, and Pastor Rick*

## WORSHIP THEMES

**August 6, 2023**

**TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

ISAIAH 55:1-5; PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21;  
ROMANS 9:1-5; MATTHEW 14:13-21

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

**August 13, 2023**

**TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

1 KINGS 19:9-18; PSALM 85:8-13; ROMANS 10:5-15; MATTHEW 14:22-23

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear, Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.



**August 20, 2023**

**TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8; PSALM 67; ROMANS 11:1-2a, 29-32; MATTHEW 15:[10-20] 21-28

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

**August 27, 2023**

**TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

ISAIAH 51:1-6; PSALM 138; ROMANS 12:1-8; MATTHEW 16:13-20

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world; but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

## Children's Ministry

### Confirmation

Orientation for 6th-8th grade  
families

**August 16th**

**6:30pm**

Centennial Hall

Classes Begin

**August 23rd**

Large Group 6:50pm-7:25 PM

Small Group 7:25pm-8:00pm



### Sunday School

**August 20th**

Teacher Installation  
at all three services

Classes begin

**9:55am-10:55am**

### Wednesday Nights Starting August 23rd

Feeding the Flock 5:30pm to 6:30pm

FROG (Fully Rely on God) for Preschool and  
Elementary aged kids 6:30pm-7:45pm



*Join Us*

**Sunday, August 27th**

Sunday school 9:55am-10:55am

Worship @ Dryden Park 11:00am

Potluck following the service



# Children's Ministry Registration

## 2023 - 2024 CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMMING REGISTRATION

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER CHILD & RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

\* PLEASE NOTE YOUR CHILD MUST BE 4 YEARS OLD PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2023 TO PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL OR FROG \*

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ GRADE & SCHOOL IN 2023-2024: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER'S CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

My child will be attending:

☐ **F.R.O.G.** (Wed. Pre-K through 5th Grade)

☐ **Sunday School** (Pre-K through 8th Grade) ☐ **Confirmation** (Grades 6-8)

To get news & updates, we'd like to be contacted by: ☐ Mail ☐ Email ☐ Phone

I'd like to help on: ☐ Sundays ☐ Wednesdays Area of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for photographs or likenesses of my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to be included on the internet website, social media, monthly newsletter or in advertisements of First Lutheran Church.

signature of parent/guardian

date

I give permission for my child to participate fully in the Christian Educational Programs at First Lutheran Church, Kearney, Nebraska, including snacks and games. In case of an emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians of the child. In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for the medical personnel selected by the Sunday School, FROG, or Confirmation staff to secure proper and necessary treatment for my child as named on this form.

Allergy Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

signature of parent/guardian

date

physician's name & clinic

phone number



[WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANKEARNEY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANKEARNEY.ORG)

3315 G Avenue - Kearney, NE 68847  
308-237-5544 - office@firstlutherankearney.org





## **First Lutheran Youth Take Mission Trip to Nashville**

by Miranda Wright

FLY spent the week of June 24-July 1 on a mission trip in Nashville, Tennessee. It was filled with laughter, service, and LOTS of Jesus. When departing from the church on Saturday the 24th, we were fully prepared for a week of fun serving and growing on our faith journey. We stopped for the night at a church called Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where we were welcomed with open arms. We devoured pre-made lasagna meals prepared by families of our youth group. Before leaving the suburb of St. Louis, Missouri we attended the early service at Good Shepard where we got to see how other Lutheran churches run things. We then traveled the last 5 hours to the Music City, Nashville.

During the week, we spent about 5 hours at our service sites each day with our assigned groups. Our work groups were named after famous country singers, like Rascal Flatts and Dolly Parton. Some projects various groups took part in included: organizing and making meals at a homeless shelter, doing yard work, cleaning, sorting medical supplies at project search, playing with kids at day-camps, teaching kids how to read, and putting away stuff at a ministry site. Helping at the different sites was an eye-opening experience seeing the impact that we made doing such small projects.

My group was assigned the Shelby Park Community Center for the first 3 days where we hung out with kids ages 6-14 and then a place called Jesus Provisions Ministries for the last day where we sorted supplies and created VBS plans. The community center was created for low-income families to have free child care where their kids could get 2 free meals a day and get lot of physical activity. The rest of the week, my group was assigned to Jesus Provisions Ministries. It is a non-profit organization that was started for families that needed food and clothes but couldn't afford it. It now has grown, and they have been able to provide a hot meal and service every Sunday morning for the homeless people in Nashville. Not only did our groups provide help and service to others, we got to learn about others stories and see things in a different light.

*Continued on next page*

## **First Lutheran Youth Take Mission Trip to Nashville** (continued)

During our free time, we got to visit Centennial Park and, of course, downtown Broadway as a church group. While downtown, you could definitely tell we were tourists because of how giddy we were and how many photos we took. The sights were incredible during the sunsets. It was filled with live music everywhere you went.

One of the most memorable moments of the entire trip was worship and church group time. Worship was just like any other church service, filled with music and learning about the Bible. However, one night stood out to me the most. It was the last night before we left to head home the next morning. They had chosen to talk about John 13, particularly John 13, verses 1-5. "Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet and wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him". When we went into church group time, our pastor(s) washed our feet and prayed over us just like Jesus had done to his disciples. It was an especially emotional night for our group as it was one of our last with Pastor Elisabeth. God worked through us that week in many, many ways. Going on this trip was a once in a life time experience, and it was definitely a trip I will never forget!





**FRIDAY AUGUST 18, 2023 • 11:00 AM**

**MEADOWLARK HILLS GOLF COURSE, 3300 30TH  
AVENUE, KEARNEY, NE**

11:00 a.m. - Lunch & Check-in

12:00 p.m. - Shotgun Start

\*\*\*\*\*

Carol Joy Holling Camp in Ashland, Nebraska and Sullivan Hills Camp near Lodgepole, Nebraska offer summer camping experiences to children of all walks of life and faith. Your contribution helps to support our programs and provide more opportunities for our campers.

[HTTPS://WWW.CLASSY.ORG/EVENT/KEARNEY-CAMP-CLASSIC-GOLF-TOURNAMENT-2023/E404289](https://www.classy.org/event/kearney-camp-classic-golf-tournament-2023/e404289)



# NOTES FROM OUR PRESCHOOL

## A MINISTRY OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so excited for August!

The preschool staff are getting their rooms ready and getting organized! All the staff are returning and they are all amazing! We are so blessed with caring hearts that actually work and play with the children! They get lots of attention and support!

A letter went out to the parents to tell them about our open house and give them the supply list. **Our Open House will be August 17th from 5:30 – 6:30pm and then another one from 7-8pm.** We are so excited to meet all of our new students and begin another year of exploring.

Our first day of school is Aug. 21st and we are going to have one of the best years yet! We can't wait!

We hope you are enjoying these summer days!

God Bless!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Lora



## WOMEN of the ELCA

On Monday, July 10th, women from the church gathered for some wonderful food and fun. Marvelous salads were enjoyed on tables decorated for Flip Flop fun. After the business meeting a fun game was played in which ladies had a Bible character taped on their back and they had to figure out who they were and then had to find their match. There was lots of talking and laughter, a good sound to hear. Thanks to Naomi and Gloria circle for preparing the drinks, table decorations and cleanup.

During the business meeting, election of officers took place. Linda Fowler was elected as Vice-President and Bev Vacha was elected as Secretary. Thanks to these ladies for serving in these positions. We also discussed the Saved to Serve event at Mosaic Bethphage Village in Axtell on August 4 - 6. On August 5th they are looking for ladies to help push wheelchairs of individuals so they can go to the carnival. The carnival goes from 1:30 -3:30. They need helpers to be there at 1:00 to go over information. If you can help please let Deb Schauer know at [schauerdeb@gmail.com](mailto:schauerdeb@gmail.com).

HELP, Lutheran World Relief packing day will be here before we know it. We are in desperate need of supplies to help prepare the kits. For the school kits, the items we still need 100 Notebooks (70 sheet) are our number 1 item. We also need 16 or 24 boxes of crayons, 30 cm rulers, and black or blue pens. For the Personal kits we need lightweight dark bath towels, bath size soap, metal nail clippers and sturdy combs. If you can purchase any of these items there are boxes in the cafe area for these items. Thanks for helping make life better for those in Third World countries.

The 2023 Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Biennial Convention and Gathering will be held from October 6-8 at Camp Carol Joy in Ashland. Two scholarships will be selected from the Southern Prairie conference. If you would like to apply there are scholarship forms available on the WELCA bulletin board by the office.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 4 - 6:00pm to August 6 at 1:00pm** - Saved to Serve  
Mosaic Bethphage Village in Axtell

**September 11 - 6:00pm** - Women of the ELCA Board  
Meeting and Potluck Supper Centennial Hall

**October 6- 8** Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization  
Biennial Convention and Gathering Camp Carol Joy -  
Ashland

#### DEBORAH CIRCLE

5:00 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

JUNE FINANCE REPORT			
<b>Ministry Budget:</b>	June 2023	YTD '23-'24	YTD '22-'23
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 49,514	\$ 49,514	\$ 35,388
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (53,993)	\$ (53,993)	\$ (59,406)
Total 2023-2024 Ministry Budget: \$759,201			
<b>Facilities Budget:</b>	June 2023	YTD '23-'24	YTD '22-'23
Revenue	\$ 4,845	\$ 4,845	\$ 6,414
Expenditures	\$ (1,569)	\$ (1,569)	\$ (5,410)
Total 2023-2024 Facilities Budget: \$44,100			



**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:

**Online** (just go to the First Lutheran website under the “Resources” tab), and

**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 Office**

office@firstlutheranearney.org

**Pastor Rick Carlson**

*Co-Pastor*

rcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

*Co-Pastor*

mcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

**Kandy Bacon**

*Administrative Assistant*

kbacon@firstlutheranearney.org

**Ashlea Denton**

*Faith in Action Coordinator*

adenton@firstlutheranearney.org

**Marti Brockmeier**

*Bookkeeper*

martibrockmeier@firstlutheranearney.org

**Natalie Radcliffe**

*Music Coordinator*

natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org

**Amanda Lewis**

*Lead Teacher for the Preschool*

amandalewis@firstlutheranearney.org

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Kyle Means

*President*

Kelly Russman

*Vice President*

Shirley Smalley

*Treasurer*

Lee Fritson

*Secretary*

PJ Bartels

Karen Emal

Judy Henning

Deb Schauer

Bill Schmidt



PRESIDENT:

DEB SCHAUER

308-233-2669

VICE PRESIDENT:

LINDA FOWLER

308-236-7265

SECRETARY:

BEV VACHA

308-468-6239

TREASURER:

JO SMALLCOMB

308-234-3053



## August Dates to Remember

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

Sat./Sun. August 5, 6 – Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 10:30am

Worship at Brookestone Gardens at 2:00pm

Sat./Sun., August 12, 13 – Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, 10:30am

Blessing of Backpacks @ all three services

Wed., August 16 – Confirmation Orientation 6:30pm Centennial Hall

FLY Parent/Youth Meeting 7:30pm Basement

Sat/Sun., August 19, 20 – Worship @ 6pm, 8:45am, **11:00am**

Installation of Sunday School teachers, FROG teachers,  
and Confirmation Small Group Leaders

Sun., August 20 – Sunday School Begins 9:55am-10:55am

Wed., August 23 – Praiser Bells Begin 5:15pm-5:45pm

Feeding the Flock begins 5:30pm-6:30pm

Heavenly Treble Makers Begins 6:15pm-6:45pm

FROG (Fully Rely on God) begins 6:30pm-7:45pm

Confirmation Begins – 6:50pm-8:00pm

Sat./Sun. August 26, 27 – Worship @ 6pm

NO 8:45am Service this weekend

Sunday School 9:55am-10:55am

Worship 11:00am @ Dryden Park

Installation of Council Members

Potluck following worship



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
3315 G AVENUE  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA 68847-3699  
  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 155  
KEARNEY, NE 68847

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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/](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: KXPB 1460AM

PHONE: 308-237-5544    WEB: [WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANKEARNEY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANKEARNEY.ORG)

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30AM – 4PM MONDAY – FRIDAY