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DECEMBER 2023

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# 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...

## BE PRESENT

WRITTEN BY NEBRASKA SYNOD STAFF

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As we await and celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that God is present and shows up. The babe in the manger, God Incarnate, is God's gift of deep love for us. We are invited to pause, be still, and be fully present in this holy season. Society calls us to a different place where busyness, spending, and rushing about are marks of success. God, in Christ, offers another way: Emmanuel – God with us.

Questions to Consider:

- What can I add to this season that would truly allow me to pause?
- What tradition do you have that nurtures being present at this time of year?
- As you are on the GO, how are you going to practice being present?

Prayer: Emmanuel, you are present with us. Help us be present with each other. Amen.

Suggested Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257)

# RESOURCES

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

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

**NEBRASKA LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY:**  
WWW.NELCM.COM 402-391-1144

**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 THIS MONTH 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...

The family and friends of Diane Drabek on her passing.



*Here are some great opportunities to find peace during the season with music.*

**Ring The Bells of Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 PM  
Merryman Performing Arts Center  
225 W 22nd St., Kearney, NE 68845  
No ticket required. Freewill offering.  
Cookie reception following the concert.

Chancel Bells  
First Lutheran Church

Gloria Dei Bells  
First Presbyterian Church

Acclamation Bells  
First United Methodist Church



### Children's 2023 Christmas Program

December 9 @ 6pm

December 10 @ 8:45am & 11am

### BIG Important Practices:

Sun., Nov. 26: 2 - 3 pm - Cast Only

Sun., Nov. 26: 3 - 4pm - ALL Pre-K - 5th grade

Wed., Nov. 29: 7 - 8 pm - Cast Only

Sun., Dec. 3: 2 - 3pm - Cast Only (FULL dress rehearsal/Cast only)

Sun., Dec. 3: 3 - 4pm - ALL Pre-K - 5th grade

Wed., Dec. 6: 7 - 8pm - Cast Only



### "The Heart of Christmas"

Pepper Choplin

### Chancel Choir Cantata



Saturday, December 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 @ 8:45 a.m.

### Come Behold Emmanuel: A Christmas Worship Celebration

Sound Offering

Cantata

December 17, 2023

11:00 a.m. Worship service





## WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY



### **VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH: Clifford Behrhorst and family.**

Clifford Behrhorst had a great idea.  
"I want to do a bake sale as a fundraiser for the  
Royal Family Kids!"  
He created a plan and presented it to Pastor Rick  
and Pastor Michelle.  
Clifford set a goal of \$50, but over \$800 was raised!

**Thank you Kurt, Amy, Laura & Clifford Behrhorst!**

### **Jubilee Meals**

First Lutheran will again be hosting Jubilee Meals for the  
months of January, February and March.

These delicious meals will be on Thursday nights and are free  
to anyone. Our church family will provide the food in January.

Would you like to help with food?

Be watching for sign up sheets in December.

Would you be interested in helping this ministry in other ways?

Please contact Paula Peterson at 308-440-2424

or Myron Riddle at 308-233-2527.

### **Jubilee Dinners**

**FLC will host meals on Thursday evenings in  
January, February and March.**

**Our church family will provide the food in January.**

**Sign up sheets will be in the lobby in December.**



Would you be interested in helping this ministry in other ways? Please contact  
Paula Peterson at 308-440-2424 or Myron Riddle at 308-233-2527.



## MUSIC MINISTRY



### **Praising God through music!**

The choirs practice weekly and all are welcome to join!

#### **Chancel Choir | CJ Sabah - director**

Rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

High School through adults are welcome

#### **Chancel Bells | Natalie Radcliffe - director**

Rehearses on Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Choir is open to High Schoolers through adults

#### **Sound Offering Praise Band | Stacy Bean - director**

Rehearses on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### **Praiser Bells | Angela Wright - director**

Rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

This choir is for 3rd grade through 8th grade

#### **Heavenly Treble Makers - Angela Wright—director**

Rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

This is a vocal choir for middle schoolers

#### **Children's Choir**

Rehearses on Sunday mornings during Sunday School.

All children are welcome.



# MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

## ELCA GOOD GIFTS!



### Safe Water Access

The Mission Outreach Team has selected ELCA Good Gifts clean water resources as this year's Advent Project, specifically providing water filters, which are available for \$30 each. When safe drinking water isn't available, especially in times following emergencies or natural disasters – a simple ceramic water filter is a lifesaver.

Capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals, a water filter is a powerful, reliable way to provide safe water when it is needed most. One of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty is lack of access to clean water. When families have access to clean, safe water, communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school.

Ornaments to support ELCA Good Gifts & water filters will be available on trees in the narthex throughout Advent, or donations may be made at:

[goodgifts.elca.org/water-filter](https://goodgifts.elca.org/water-filter).



# MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

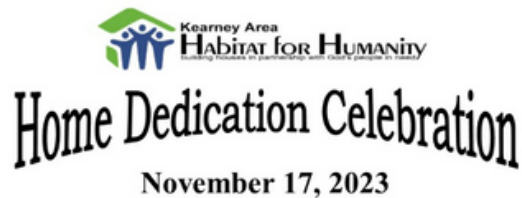


## It is a time to celebrate!

- The Ingrid Ramirez family moved into their new home on November 17.
- There will be dedications for the Justine Gabbert family on Dec 15 and Leo and Maria Rodriguez family on Dec 18.

Each dedication begins at 6:30 pm at the intersection of Ave P and 17th Street. In addition, there are foundations for two houses poured and ready to be built in 2024 and two families are already working on the job site. Thank you to everyone who through their prayers, donations and time have made it possible for these families to build a strong future for themselves and the community.

Please remember Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity in your donations to Give Where You Live on December 7th.



**Ingrid Ramirez  
Omar & Allison**



## MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:



It is a Blessing to be Blessed!

Thank you, First Lutheran Church for making LWR Packing Day a success. This year we donated, packed and shipped:

144 School Kits

36 Baby Care Kits

39 Personal Care Kits

84 Quilts

5 Fabric Kits

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

**A big heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible.**

## ROYAL FAMILY KIDS

**Thank you** for partnering with Kearney Royal Family KIDS in 2023. Check out some of our highlights of the year, made possible by your generosity:



The Kearney chapter assisted in the launch of a new North Platte RFK chapter, allowing both communities to serve more children.



**78** kids attended our week-long camp and **58** are attending our year-round mentoring program.



Over **150** volunteers have given countless hours to create life changing moments for children in foster care.

[www.kearneyrfk.org](http://www.kearneyrfk.org) | [info@kearneyrfk.org](mailto:info@kearneyrfk.org)

### *Upcoming Events*

#### **Ugly Sweater Christmas Bingo**

December 2 | 6 PM  
The Village | 1920 A Ave

#### **Give Where You Live**

December 7  
[givewhereyoulive.net](http://givewhereyoulive.net)

#### **Fundraiser Hosted by UNK Students**

December 8 | 7-10 PM  
Ponderosa Room C  
UNK Student Union

#### **Royal Family Feud**

March 23 | Details TBA  
Legacy on the Bricks

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



### DECEMBER S.A.F.E. CENTER DONATION: LAUNDRY SOAPS & LAUNDRY PRODUCTS.

PLEASE PLACE ITEMS ON THE  
"SHARING SHELF" IN THE  
NARTHEX. THANK YOU!

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

### Adopt a Family This Holiday Season

Themed baskets of supplies are needed for S.A.F.E. Center clients to encourage family bonding. The S.A.F.E. Center will provide details. You provide creativity and items.

**Baskets need dropped off  
by Thursday, December 14**



Contact Pastor Michelle or the S.A.F.E. Center to adopt a family.



## S.A.F.E. Center

Empower. Support. Educate.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Address: 620 E. 25th Street Suite 14

Kearney, NE 68847

308-237-2599 / Crisis line: 877-237-2513

## A COUNCIL UPDATE

### Your Feedback is Requested!

Greetings members First Lutheran,

We had a very nice “Pizza and Possibilities” event in November. It was a smaller gathering, but those in attendance were engaged in deep and meaningful discussion. The feedback collected at that event will be very helpful as we determine the best path forward for our congregation, particularly as it pertains to youth and young adult ministry. However, we are now requesting feedback from even more of you!

One of the main questions of discussion was: should First Lutheran seek a called pastor/deacon to serve as an associate pastor, or should we seek to lift up a gifted lay person (non-called staff), possibly even from within our own community? There are pros and cons to each path forward. One of the concerns of our leadership team is that there is a significant pastoral shortage nationwide. That includes 60+ current openings in the Nebraska ELCA Synod alone. That means that if we continue forward with a call process, we would be competing against 60 other churches. Of course, we faced a shortage when we called Pastors Michelle and Rick. We faced a shortage when we called Pastor Elisabeth. So we know that God will provide. However, the difference now is that call processes are taking even longer and competition is greater with many openings in Lincoln and Omaha. Furthermore, knowing that we’ve had 9 different individuals serve as youth leader over the past 20 years (it’s true!), we really want to get this right for the benefit of our faithful youth.

The Synod is actually encouraging congregational leaders to get creative, to partner with other area ELCA churches, and to consider lifting up lay leaders. So these are things we’re exploring and we invite you to participate in the process. Below is a QR code. We invite you to scan that code and answer the questions on the Google Form. Questions include: What should First Lutheran Church stand for? What would you like to see happen at First Lutheran in the next 3 years? And what qualities and characteristics should we seek in our next youth leader?

**SCAN THIS CODE TO ACCESS THE GOOGLE FORM:**  
or go to: <https://forms.gle/RmAQD97KwzQv3rER7>



Your participation in this process is greatly appreciated. If you have additional questions or feedback that you would like to share more directly, please reach out to me (Kyle) at [k.r.means@gmail.com](mailto:k.r.means@gmail.com) at any time, or connect with another member of council.

ALSO, for those who are more comfortable writing on paper, please find copies of the Pizza & Possibilities worksheet on one of the welcome stations at the church, fill it out, and leave at the office.

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

### December 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 64:1-9; PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19; 1  
CORINTHIANS 1:3-9; MARK 13:24-37

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

### December 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 40:1-11; PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 PETER  
3:8-15a; MARK 1:1-8

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us to be herald with John, to life up our voices fearlessly and say, "See your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

### December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11; PSALM 126; 1  
THESSALONIANS 5:16-24; JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a rode," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

### December 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16; LUKE 1:4-46b - 55;  
ROMANS 16:25-27; LUKE 1:26-38

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son, Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is still able to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it is a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in,".

### December 31, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

ISAIAH 61:1-10 - 62:3; PSALM 148; GALATIANS  
4:4-7; LUKE 2:22-40

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.



## Children's Ministry

### Sunday Mornings will resume

**January 7.**

Classes for ALL Ages  
9:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.



Anyone can sign up for these opportunities at any time throughout the school year.

The Sign-Up form is on the church website and on the Welcome Stations.

### Wednesday Nights will resume

**January 10.**

Feeding the Flock for all ages  
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

Confirmation

Large Group 6:50 p.m.-7:25 p.m.

Small Group 7:25 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

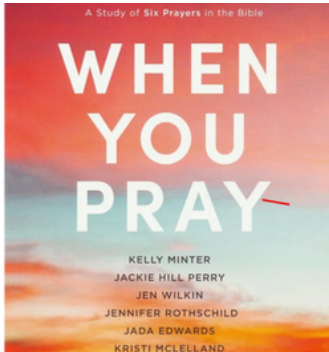


**Sunday School will resume on  
January 7, 2024 @ 9:50 a.m.**

**Wednesday Night Programming  
(FROG) will resume on  
January 10, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.**



## Adult Faith Formation Opportunities



Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

Adult Bible Study begins Wednesday January 3, 2024, with Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. "When You Pray" is a Bible Study Book with Video Access: A Study of Six prayers in the Bible and the book available at the Solid Rock. Please watch the video that is included with the book before the first session.

## Special Announcements

### ***Wednesday Night Advent Services***

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Dec. 6, 13 & 20

30 minutes of word and prayer

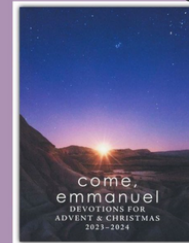
*"Let your face shine upon us,  
and we shall be saved."*



### **Advent Devotionals**

Available on the welcome Stations

Regular and Large Print



### **Christmas Worship Services:**

Sunday, December 24

Traditional Service: 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services:

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.







### **FLY December 2023 Upcoming Dates and Events**

Our last meeting of the year will be for our FLY Christmas party on December 6th from 7:00pm-8:00pm!

The season of Advent is a season of waiting. Waiting in anticipation of the promise of our Savior. An expectation which requires patience, hope, and trust. First Lutheran Youth group is also in a season of waiting. Waiting in anticipation of the person who will be called to help them lead, learn, and grow in their faith. As they are waiting, they are revisioning the youth group. Asking questions such as; who do we wish to be? How do we want to grow? What are we called to do as members of this congregation? Part of this process has become redefining the space around them! Creating a functional space where Christ is centered, all our welcomed, and more is prepared for the next season of FLY!

Please always feel free to reach out to me with any questions or thoughts! My email is [adenton@firstlutheranearney.org](mailto:adenton@firstlutheranearney.org)

A festive announcement graphic for FLY Brunch & Silent Auction. The background is white with a border of green pine branches, red berries, and gold and silver ornaments. The text is centered and reads:

**FLY Brunch & Silent Auction**  
Silent Auction items are displayed in the Narthex.  
**Bidding has begun and**  
**is OPEN TO ANYONE!!**  
Bids end: Dec. 3 at 10:57 a.m.  
**BRUNCH: Sunday, Dec 3 @ 9:30 a.m.- 11 a.m.**  
in Centennial Hall  
Proceeds Support FLY

# NOTES FROM OUR PRESCHOOL: A MINISTRY OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello First Lutheran Parishioners,

The month of December finds us hard at work preparing for the wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth. While so much of the bible is a difficult concept for preschoolers, the story of the birth of Jesus is one that captivates their young minds. People riding donkeys, shepherds who stay up all night watching sheep and stars, a special baby in a barn, angels singing, kings riding camels.... What an AWESOME story! We are super excited for our families to see their Christmas program and hear the songs they have been practicing so hard on.

In the classroom, we are so impressed with the progress these kids have made since August. They are working independently on their worksheets and projects, and they are even starting to write their names on their papers now! It is such a joy to see their enthusiasm and pride when they accomplish new challenges!

The month of December is a short month for preschool, but it is jam packed with all sorts of learning and fun. We look forward to spending the last couple of weeks of 2023 relaxing with family and reflecting on all of God's blessings before we get started on our second semester in 2024.

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

Mrs. Lora and Mrs. Mindy



Happy December!

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

They love exploring the science center and art center. They are learning to juggle balloons and balance bean bags. They are hammering golf tees into a big pumpkin. They also explored insects, sea creature books/toys and land animals/toys. What has also been fun to see is how much they love our art center! They are cutting, gluing, drawing, writing words and creating so many beautiful things! It has been fun to watch. I have been assessing students during centers on their letters and sounds. They know so much and in fact most know all or close to all of them! We had our first parent/teacher conferences in the first week of November and they went so well. 100% attendance and the parents are really happy with how well it is going and the progress they are making.

We loved our late September field trip to Dmilaco. The students had a blast making their own t-shirt and getting to wear it before we left. They got to sing some songs to the staff and Denny sang a couple songs to us! Then we went to Trails and Rails in October and loved learning so much about life in the 1800s. Our last field trip for 2023 was at the Police Station and we have a ton of fun! Sargent Smalls was great and we got some cool collectible police cards!

We started speaker of the month and we started off with a roofing guy who brought a drone! The next speaker works is a doctor and we got to pretend we were doctors with gloves, masks and stethoscopes.

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

Have a very Merry Christmas!  
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

## WOMEN of the ELCA

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the packing and moving of the boxes for Lutheran World Relief. Thirty-nine boxes were packed with 144 school kits, 36 baby care kits, 39 personal care kits, 5 sewing kits and 84 quilts. Many hands made light work.

THANK YOU to Theress Bricker who has organized the packing day, God's Work Our Hands Sunday School service event and the items needed for all the kits for 10 years. Due to family obligations, Theress is no longer able to take on this responsibility. We are in need of someone or two people who will chair or co-chair this important mission outreach for our church. Theress has everything organized and is willing to help as she is able. You do not need to be a member of a circle but have a willingness to help others. If you are interested in helping with this service opportunity, please contact Theress Bricker, Deb Schauer or Linda Fowler.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 9th** | 9:00am - Christmas brunch  
Fellowship Hall

**January 8 -7:00pm** - Women of the ELCA Board  
Meeting Classroom 21 & 22

**January 13 -9:00 am** - Winter Retreat St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church - Grand Island

### 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





OCTOBER FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	Oct. 2023	YTD '23-'24	YTD '22-'23
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 58,082	\$ 237,989	\$ 251,906
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (56,054)	\$ (277,472)	\$ (309,024)
Total 2023-2024 Ministry Budget: \$759,201			
Facilities Budget:	Oct. 2023	YTD '23-'24	YTD '22-'23
Revenue	\$ 4,262	\$ 23,832	\$ 30,121
Expenditures	\$ (1,999)	\$ (8,797)	\$ (22,278)
Total 2023-2024 Facilities Budget: \$44,100			

### YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

**As the end of 2023 approaches, please make note of our policy regarding year-end contributions. In order to be recorded on your contribution statement for the year 2023, contributions MUST be received in the church office BEFORE 12:00 NOON on Friday, December 29th. If mailed, contributions must be clearly marked “Attn. Stacy Seim” and post-marked on or before December 31st.**



**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 Stacy Seim 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*

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**Kathy Benne**

*Director of Communications and Events*

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**Ashlea Denton**

*Faith in Action Coordinator*

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**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

## December Dates to Remember

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

Sat./Sun., December 2/3      Worship @ 6:00 p.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 3      Holiday Brunch & Silent Auction - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Handbell Concert @ The Merryman 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6      Advent Service @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 9      Women's ELCA Christmas Coffee @ 9:00 a.m. -FH

Sat./Sun., December 9/10      Worship @ 6:00 p.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Christmas Program at all services

Wednesday, December 13      Advent Service @ 6:30 p.m.

Sat./Sun., December 16/17      Worship @ 6:00 p.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata at 6 p.m. & 8:45 a.m.  
Sound Offering Christmas Cantata at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 20      Advent Service @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 23      Worship @ 6:00 p.m.,

Sunday, December 24      Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 24      Christmas Candlelight Services at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Mon./Tues. December 25 & 26 Church office closed.

Sat./Sun., December 30/31      Worship @ 6:00 p.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

One of our pastors leads worship this weekend at Family of Christ

### **Wednesdays Nights:**

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

FEEDING THE FLOCK, FROG & Confirmation will resume in January

FLY in basement youth room – 7:00 p.m. (last meeting date : Dec. 6. | will resume Jan. 10)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
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The church calendar, weekly bulletins, prayer lists, and LIVE Webstream Broadcasts on  
Sunday mornings can be found on our website:

<https://firstlutherankearney.org>

Find us on Facebook: "First Lutheran Church-Kearney"

Sign Up for Weekly Email Updates: [office@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:office@firstlutherankearney.org)

LIVE Radio Broadcast Sundays at 8:45 a.m. | KXPN 1460AM

PHONE: 308-237-5544    WEB: <https://firstlutherankearney.org>

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

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