

THE MESSENGER

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

“How soon not now becomes never.”

-Martin Luther

We had a magnet in our kitchen in Gettysburg with the quotation above from Martin Luther. Our seminary admissions staff handed them out during discernment events when people were spending dedicated time figuring out how God was calling them to serve. Through experience, I have learned how quickly “not now” becomes “never.” Not now, I will do it later. Not now, I have other things to do first. Not now, I don’t think it is the right time. Perhaps some of you have “honey-do” lists at home that suffer from the “not now” treatment. We convince ourselves that there is always tomorrow... And then tomorrow, it is again “not now...”

Our Congregation Council reads a chapter of a book at the beginning of each meeting. The last book we read was called *The Post-Quarantine Church* by Thom S. Rainer. In one of the later chapters he lists things he feels will make a lasting difference in congregations. One of those is a congregation creating “short-term wins.” He says, “Church is moving into an era of significant disruption and uncertainty. It is unlikely anyone can see beyond a few months at a time. What can you lead your church to accomplish over the next four to twelve months?” I think the answer to this question is pretty simple for us.

The plans for improving the HVAC and office situation in this facility have been approved by congregational vote and the building committee. A construction company has been engaged. Portions of the church building that have gathered much dust and many dead flies are about to be re-formed into ministry visioning areas. Decades have been spent discussing this project. July 1st it is happening. What kinds of short-term wins can we have during this time period? When we advertise for volunteers to help with cleaning up and clearing out, will you be willing to step forward? When considering your current gift to the capital campaign, will you be seeing it through? If you have not considered giving, is now the time? This project has seen a lot of “if not now, when?” The time has come.

The Spirit is calling. The Spirit is nudging. The Spirit is present. And when we respond with maybe later, not now, don’t want to... The Spirit is saying, “How soon not now becomes never.” I invite you to dream of how this physical construction project can advance the mission and ministry God is calling us to through the Holy Spirit, my friends, dream big and know that the Holy Spirit is there to help and guide us.

-Pastor Michelle

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Prayer Ventures for June can be found:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>
These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world.



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



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



Lutheran World Relief

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



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



Lutheran
Disaster
Response

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

WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY



Prayers of Comfort and Peace for...

- Evan and Ashley Lewandowski on the death of Ashley's father, Jerome Fritz.
- Karen Bigelow and family on the death of Karen's husband, Brad Bigelow.



Praise and Thanksgiving for...

Nolan and Miranda Zimmer and family on the birth of their son, Miles David Zimmer, born May 17, 2024. Grandparents are Dave and Renae Zimmer. Great-grandparents are Myron and Diane Riddle.



Thank you to our Church Family, as a whole, and to individuals that reached out to us during our mom/grandmother's illness and passing. You have all be so kind to send cards, call us, message us and comment on social media with your prayers and support. While our mom was not an official member of First Lutheran, she enjoyed the times she was able to worship there, help during VBS, and getting to know many of you. We are grateful for the Lutheran foundation she provided us as kids and that we were able to come to know Jesus and our larger family through Him.

In loving gratitude,

The family of Marla Weber:

Jeff, Sonya, Dane and Bella Buskirk

Heather Weber, Grace Weber, Joy and Hope Bell, and Elijah Killion



**Thank you
Elyria Gardens for
donating and planting
the beautiful outdoor
flowers!**



WITHIN OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY



It has been crazy trying to keep you all updated: New Web Host; New sign in name, 100th House updates and Memorial Day weekend.

So, I am going back to Saturday, May 18th.

After lots of work from 8 to 9 am, the volunteers gathered for Donuts and Devotions. Sue and Judy hosted, Pastor John and Judy gave a devotion and taught us the sign for Love that they use at Mosaic.

The traditional group photo is taken before it is "back to work".

Those volunteers sure are fast learners.



Join Us for Our
100th House
Groundbreaking!

June 1 | 9 a.m. | 1603 Avenue P



MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:



“Sharing Shelf”

**June S.A.F.E. Center Donation:
Shelf Safe and Microwavable Foods**

Please set donated items on the shelf in the Narthex.

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.

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Counties served: Buffalo, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am - 5pm Address: 620 E. 25th Street Suite 14
Kearney, NE 68847 308-237-2599/Crisis line: 877-237-2513

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

First Lutheran Preschool has an opening

for a Pre-School

3 year old Head Teacher!



If you love kids and are looking for
a part-time teaching position,
please apply at:

<https://firstlutherankearney.org/employment-opportunities/>

FirstLutheranKearney.org

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

The Mission Outreach Committee is asking for help from the congregation with the following needs:

Lutheran World Relief Coordinator – this involves coordinating the donated supplies and volunteers to assemble tied quilts and the following kits:
Personal Care Kits - Provide much-needed self-care and critical germ fighting tools.

Help a baby get off to a good start in life with basic baby care supplies.
Help a child with the supplies they need with the supplies they need to keep learning even in a crisis.

Fabric Kits – Give simple supplies that lead to a useful, marketable skill.
The coordinator also arranges for packing these kits which are then shipped to where they are needed around the world. This is done each fall, utilizing volunteers from the congregation. A summary of duties, and notes for the new coordinator, is available from the previous coordinator. Further information is also available on the Lutheran World Relief website (lwr.org/kits), to see the wide-ranging impact of this ministry.

Mission Outreach Committee Team Member – we are in need of a few more members for this committee. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month to coordinate missionary support, seasonal funding projects, Safe Center donations, adult forums, Advent Fair, Jubilee Meals, Habitat for Humanity, and other outreach activities of First Lutheran Church. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 308-237-5544.

Thank you for considering serving others in these ways.

Baby Care Kits

- 2 receiving blanket
- 2 pairs of socks
- 4 cloth diapers
- 2 cotton t-shirts (no onsies)
- 1 jacket or sweater (or hooded sweatshirt)
- 1 long or short sleeve gown or sleeper
- 2 or 3 bath size bars of gentle soap
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins
- 1 hand towel (dark color)

Donation box in Cafe Area - contact
Deb Schauer for more details. 233-2669



School Kits

- 70 sheet notebook (wide or college ruled)
- 16 or 24 box of crayons
- pencil sharpener
- 30 centimeter ruler (inches can be on either side)
- blunt scissors
- #2 unsharpened pencils
- Black/blue ballpoint pens
- 2 1/2" long



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special "THANK YOU" to our June Volunteer of the month!

June's Volunteer of the Month is Vicki Conn!

In the six years that Vicki has been a member at First Lutheran she has been very active! She helps with the "Sharing Shelf", VBS, "Trunk or Treat", "The Chili and Cinnamon Roll Contest", "God's Work Our Hands". Vicki helps serve funeral meals. Vicki is a member of the Mission Outreach Team.

Vicki is also the "behind the scenes" person who sends out a caring sympathy card when a church member or someone from their family dies.

Thank you Vicki for helping with our mission and ministry and First Lutheran Church!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for a "Q&A Session" about the renovation and the Budget Forum



- Sunday, June 9th
- 9:45 am
- Centennial Hall

 **FREE FOOD!** 

NOW that we have your attention, we need help moving our church offices to the southeast corner of the church to prepare for renovation.




- Monday, June 10
- 9:00 am - 2pm
- Coffee and donuts available!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, June 30th
9:50 AM
Centennial Hall




FUNDRAISER

Join us at the Kearney North Runza[®]
Tuesday, July 2nd

15% of sales from 5 - 8 pm will be donated to the First Lutheran Church Youth Group.

All sales from the drive-thru, dine-in, carry-out or order ahead will support the First Lutheran Church Youth Group.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MISSION OUTREACH IS LOOKING FOR TEAM MEMBERS

Provides opportunities by encouraging members to reach out and spread God's love locally and globally. Help fulfill Jesus's command to love, serve, and care for our brothers and sisters. Contact the office for more details.



COORDINATOR NEEDED

Lutheran World Relief

Help organize and pack Layettes, Health Kits and School kits for children in need. Packing day is one morning in November and will need to be shipped out. Contact the church office for more details.



Lutheran World Relief

MEDIA BOOTH VOLUNTEERS

If you can click a computer mouse, then you qualify and are trainable!



Sound, projection and video volunteers are needed during our Saturday and Sunday Worship Services.

If you're interested, please call the church office

308-237-5544

or email office@firstlutherankearney.org.



SUMMER MUSIC

Opportunities are available to provide special music at all services

Contact Natalie in the church office to schedule a time



Help Needed

First Lutheran Leads Worship at Brookstone Gardens
First Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm

- 1 hour a month
- No commitment required
- Looking for volunteers who enjoy interacting with those in assisted living facility
- Scripture reading
- Offering prayers
- Communion distribution
- An email will be sent to you in advance to sign up as available
- 2-3 volunteers per Sunday
- contact Eileen Kottmeyer at (308) 627-4683 with any questions or to volunteer



Sign up for our
Caring and
Sharing Group!
More details in
Narthex on
bulletin board

Adopt a Flowerbed FOR MOSAIC!

Mosaic in Axtell has an "Adopt a Flowerbed" program in an effort to beautify the campus. Mosaic will pay for flowers, mulch and anything needed.

The flowerbed can be in honor/memory of someone and will get a plaque in the flowerbed.

Contact Taylor for details: Taylor.Blakley@mosaicinfo.org



Mark your calendar!

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Mosaic - Kearney

2715 9th Ave, Kearney, NE 68845

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at:
jaycee.carroll@mosaicinfo.org or 308-381-1690 Ext. 56112

Real Life. Real Possibilities.

Mosaic Porch Party

Join us for a free, one-hour event. Enjoy refreshments and a tour of Mosaic's mission. Learn who we are, what we do and about the services that we offer to people with intellectual disabilities and other diverse needs - right here in your community. We're seeking community partners who have a passion for helping others, who can help us create meaningful opportunities, relationships and ultimately... lives.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Invite your neighbors! Invite your friends!
EVERYONE is welcome!
We look forward to seeing you in July!



First Lutheran Church
JULY 8 - 11 & 14

WEEKDAYS 5:15pm - 5:50pm
Check-In & Free-Will Donation Meal

WEEKDAYS 6:00pm - 8:00pm
VBS Programming

SUNDAY, JULY 14TH
10:30am Worship Service VBS Takeover
5th Lesson, Performance, Slide Show, Party

Camp Firelight
A SUMMER CAMP Psalm 56:3
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

[Register](#) [Volunteer](#)

The graphic features a cartoon bee character, a cabin, and a campfire against a starry night sky. Two QR codes are provided for registration and volunteering.

MILESTONES AT FIRST LUTHERAN 2024 CONFIRMANDS



Back row: Pastor Michelle Carlson, Callen Dorn, Jacob Johannesen,
Ian Baker, Drew Weides, Connor Nonhof, Pastor Rick Carlson
Front Row: Ashlyn John, Paisley Dutcher, Sawyer Schmidt,
Breckyn Krohn, Lexi Saulsbury, Willa Lewandowski

FROM THE COUNCIL

Construction Financing, Annual Meeting, Council Leadership

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

At our May meeting we spent a fair amount of time discussing construction financing options. We plan to share more details at the upcoming Budget Forum on Sunday, June 9th in between services. We received interest from 2 local banks and the Mission Investment Fund in servicing our construction loan for new offices and updated HVAC. The council voted and approved a commitment letter from Mission Investment Fund. If you're not familiar with MIF, they work exclusively with ELCA congregations on investment and loan projects. You can learn more about their mission and services at mif.elca.org.

We continue to make efforts to prepare for construction to begin. It has required a lot of work in cleaning out storage areas, planning to move office space, and even some asbestos tile removal in small areas of the church. The plan is to begin construction in July. We are working diligently to get everything prepared accordingly and may be calling on volunteers to help at some point. Be on the lookout for more info regarding that.

Also, please plan to attend the Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 30th in between services. We'll vote on the annual budget and elect new leaders for council, nominating committee, preschool board, and endowment committee. Your participation as a congregational member is much appreciated!

Speaking of new leaders – and on a personal note – this is my final “Council Report” as president as my term is ending. I have served two separate terms as president, and 3 terms on council over the last 10 years. It has been an absolute joy to serve God in this manner and I've tried to do my best to represent the congregation the right way, in accordance with God's will. We have had a strong, collaborative council over the years and I'm excited to see how God guides the leadership team moving forward. Additionally, our VP (Kelly Russman), Secretary (Lee Fritson), and Treasurer (Shirley Smalley), are all terming out of their respective roles. So there will be an all-new exec team moving forward. Please pray for our staff, our council, and our pastors as the important work of the church continues under new leadership.

Volunteers are the backbone of our operations and I invite you to consider different ways God may be calling you to serve. It is so rewarding and has helped me feel more connected to Christ. Please contact the church office and visit our website to explore different volunteer opportunities.

In peace,
Kyle Means
Council President



WORSHIP THEMES

June 2, 2024

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 81:1-10; 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-12;
MARK 2:23-3:6

Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should observe this freedom with a day of rest. No one should work seven days a week; even slaves and foreigners should be able to rest. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping; but defends its original life – enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to restoration: the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.

June 9, 2024

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

GENESIS 3:8-15; PSALM 130; 2
CORINTHIANS 4:13-5:1; MARK 3:20-35

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not be a demon; but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

June 16, 2024

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

EZEKIEL 17:22-24; PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15; 2
CORINTHIANS 5:6-10[11-13] 14-17; MARK
4:26-34

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look.

Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

June 23, 2024

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

JOB 38:1-11; PSALM 107:1-3, 23-32; 2
CORINTHIANS 6:1-13; MARK 4:35-41

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

June 30, 2024

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

LAMENATIONS 3:22-23; PSALM 30; 2
CORINTHIANS 8:7-15; MARK 5:21-43

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

Pre-K

Hello June from Pre-K!

The month of May was filled with celebrating how God made families and our students. The students made presents for Mother's and Father's day. We also finished our creation book. We reviewed letters, numbers, counting, and they can even do a story problem with manipulatives.

They have at least 29+ books in their book boxes to read!

These kiddos can count far, know all or almost all of their upper case and lowercase letters, know at least numbers from 0-20, know what a penny, nickel, dime and quarter look like, what each is worth and they have begun to understand telling time on an analog clock. They can rhyme, sound words out, write letters and words, draw a bunch of new things, cut well with scissors and have learned how to make sentences this year!

It is so impressive how much they have grown. I am excited for their futures! I know they all are going to do great big things. They know God is with them to help them at all times - giving them courage to face the tough times and thanking God for the good times. They are such a blessing and we will miss them terribly.

Our graduation was May 10th. We sang songs, distributed certificates, keepsakes, and gave a goodie bag to each child. We played on the playground, danced around with our ribbons and had fun chasing Mrs. Amanda. We also enjoyed pop-ice and bottles of water! It has been an amazing year and I won't forget the memories we have made with these wonderful children.

Our 3 & 4 year old class is full for next year with three more on the waiting list. Pre-K has a few openings left, so please spread the word about our great school. We start at 8:15am and end at 11:45am. Pre-K is Monday-Friday and next year our 3 & 4 year class will be 4 days a week! We have had so much success with 5 days of Pre-K that we wanted to give the youngest class 4 days instead of 2.

Lastly and most importantly, Mrs. Lora is semi-retiring. She is going to teach 2 days a week at Little Fish and we are so happy for her. We will miss her so, but she left us with great plans for next year and her 11 years with this preschool will always be cherished. Thank you to all who signed her book and wrote such wonderful thoughts for Lora. She loved the book so much and said she will cherish it. She plans on reading it over and over!

God's blessings,
Mrs. Amanda

Women of the ELCA

On April 20th the ladies from the church gathered to hear about “Lessons in God’s Love”. The morning started by finding the chapter and verse of five Bible verses. Deb shared a prayer for all women. Jason Owens from the *Hanny Arram Center for Success* was the guest speaker. He told us about new programs they have added to the program to help make students successful. They are adding a jobs component so students can explore a variety of jobs opportunities that are available to them. The most important lesson he talked about was meeting the students where they are. Some of the students struggle with being homeless, some might not have enough food in their house, and some struggle with wanting to be in school. They make sure to greet each student in the morning to see how the student is feeling that day. The staff tries to help them with whatever is troubling them so they can concentrate on learning. As a way to help, a tangible offering of food and other items was taken so they could best help the students. The freewill offering also went to the Center.

After listening to Jason, a variety of delicious salads were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Naomi Circle for taking care of the dinnerware, the Gloria Circle for decorating the tables, and Deborah Circle for preparing the drinks and setting the salads out. Thanks to everyone who stayed to help clean up.

One of the kits we make for Lutheran World Relief is Personal Care Kits. The items needed to make this kit are: lightweight bath size bath towel(dark color) bath size soap, adult toothbrush, sturdy comb, metal nail clippers. **When you're out shopping, and see a sale please pick up an item for this kit.** You may place items in the box in the Cafe area.

Saved to Serve is set for August 2-4th. They will meet at First Lutheran Church in Fremont and work at Dana Village for foster children who have aged out of the system.

See Deb Schauer for a registration form if you are interested in attending.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 3rd - 7:00pm - Women of the ELCA Board Meeting
Classroom 21 & 22

July - 7:00pm - Women of the ELCA General Meeting & Elections

August 2-4 - Saved to Serve
First Lutheran in Fremont

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

NOMINATIONS

Congregation Council Candidates

CHRISTINE FISHER, ED. D.

- I am currently an assistant professor at University of Nebraska Kearney in teacher education.
- Member of First Lutheran Church (FLC) for over 30 years. I am a third-generation member at FLC.
- Baptized at FLC in 1976 and confirmed at FLC in 1992
- Graduate of FLC pre-school
- Currently serve on FLC Mission Outreach team and preschool board
- Vice president of The Arc of Buffalo County board
- Lector at the 8:45 service
- Alter guild for May



LISA REESE PARISH

I have been a member of First Lutheran Church since 2005.
I am married to Donald and we have two adult sons, Evan and Aidan.

I am a currently help as an Altar Guild, Communion Assistant, and a Lector.
I was baptized as an infant at Zion Lutheran Church in Kearney and added Christian Day School through sixth grade and was confirmed in eighth grade.

Donald and I were married at Holy Cross Lutheran Church where we briefly attended after returning to Kearney in 1999. During the years Donald served as an active-duty Air Force Officer, we attended many base chapels and a variety of denominations.

My professional career of 35 years in the non-profit industry beginning with five Girl Scouts Councils, the Unity Way of the Kearney Area and currently the Kearney Public Schools Foundation.

In my free time, I enjoy sewing, gardening, reading and cooking.



TYLER SCHWARTZ

I have been a member of First Lutheran Church since 1997.

My current First Lutheran Church involvement is Media Booth Volunteer (since 1997), and I am on the Imaging and Technology Committee.

My previous involvement at the church includes being on the Worship Life Team, Confirmation Small Group Guide, a Sunday School Teacher, and a Vacation Bible School Volunteer.

My wife, Annette and I have been married for 31 years, and we have two children, Hope (25) and Zach (22).

I work as the Laboratory Director at CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital. I have been employed with Good Samaritan for the past 28 years.



NOMINATIONS

Endowment Committee Candidates

LORI MCARTHUR

I have been a member of FLC since 2003.
I am married to John and we have two children,
Olivia (19) and Emily (17)
I am a School Social Worker for Kearney Public Schools
for the past 16 years.
I attended the 2002 Nebraska Synod Assembly.
I previously chaired the Care and Growth Committee.
I taught Sunday School, Confirmation Classes and
volunteered for Vacation Bible School.
I am the current Secretary for the Endowment
Committee.



Nominating Committee Candidates

CHRISTIE BEHLE

I have been a member of the church for over 20 years.
I am married to Dave and we have 4 children (3 are
married and 1 in high school) and we have 2 grandchildren.
I am an early intervention Services Coordinator at ESU10
working from children birth to age 3 and their families.



I have been involved with Sunday School, children's music,
Preschool, the Preschool Board, Confirmation, VBS, God's
Work Our Hands, and I am currently on the Mission
Outreach Team. I am also involved in continuing
education, 4H, helping with our family's cattle operation,
quilting, yardwork, foster/respice care and DIY projects.

RACHEL LEACH

I have been a member of First Lutheran Church
since 1998.
have served on Church Council for 6 years. Care
and Growth for 3 years. Preschool Board for 5
years (currently serving). I have taught Sunday
school/Confirmation/FROG/VBS for over 20 years
in some aspect.
I am married to Shawn Leach. We have four adult
children and three grandchildren that she spends
as much time as I can with them all. I have worked
for Park and Recreation for 25 years.



EILEEN KOTTMAYER

We joined the church in 1980 after moving
here. Through the years as our children
were growing, I taught Sunday School,
Bible School and was the Director of Bible
School. I have also served on Church
Council, Nominating Committee and Care
& Growth. I have helped with Jubilee Meals
and am currently serving at the monthly
church service at Brookstone Gardens.



MELANIE YOUNG

I have been a member of First Lutheran Church
since 1997. I have worked a substitute Sunday School
teacher, taught confirmation for 3 years, was on the
Endowment Committee for 2 terms and served as the
Secretary. I currently help as a substitute usher.
I am married to Jason and we have two sons, Evan and
Austin.
I work as a prosecutor at the Buffalo County Attorney's
office for the past 27 years.
In my spare time I enjoy reading, sports, water skiing and
spending time with my family.



NOMINATIONS

Preschool Board

MICHELLE GARTH

I am a member of First Lutheran since 2022. I am originally from Kearney & moved back in 2019 to be closer to family.

This would be my first time serving on a committee at First Lutheran & am honored to be considered.

I work at Oldfather Financial Services in Kearney as Director of Client Experience.

I enjoy spending time with my 4.5 year old son Oliver ("Ollie"), which we attend the 11am worship service. Also enjoys time with family, friends, being outdoors, & traveling.

As a mom of a preschooler, hopes to serve by using her recent experience of navigating the preschool/daycare world



HEIDI STRAKA

My name is Heidi Straka, and I am excited about the opportunity to join the First Lutheran Preschool Board if elected. I bring with me 34 years of experience in teaching primary grades at Kearney Public Schools, with a particular focus on early literacy.

Throughout my career, I have developed a deep understanding of the crucial role that a strong preschool program plays in laying the foundation for a child's educational journey. I am passionate about supporting and enhancing the early educational experiences of young learners, ensuring they have the best possible start.

I look forward to contributing my expertise and working collaboratively to continue the tradition of excellence at First Lutheran Preschool.

Thank you for considering me for this role



PEGGY TOWNSEND

I have been a member of First Lutheran Church (Kearney) for 43 years and 10 years at other First Lutheran Church's.

I worked as Licensed Daycare Operator for 37 years and am now retired.

I have worked as a Sunday School Teacher for 15 years.

I served on the Preschool Board, Altar Guild, Communion Assistant and Debra Circle.

Dave and I have been married for 52 years.

We have 3 children and 9 grandchildren.



March FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	Apr 2024	YTD '23-'24	YTD '22-'23
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$49,817	\$608,410	\$633,731
Budget Related Expenditures	\$(52,212)	\$ (627,291)	\$(687,176)
Total 2023-2024 Ministry Budget: \$759,201			
Facilities Budget:	Apr 2024	YTD '23-'24	YTD '22-'23
Revenue	\$4,706	\$55,526	\$78,473
Expenditures	\$(1,600)	\$(18,121)	\$(41,136)
Total 2023-2024 Facilities Budget: \$44,100			



ELECTRONIC GIVING:

Please consider using VANCO Mobile Faith, as you give and donate to help us lower expenses. You can select a one-time or recurring donation.

- Online: Visit FirstLutheranKearney.org.
- Click on the “Resources” tab, then “Make a Donation”.
- Or download the Vanco Mobile Faith app on an iPhone or Android.
Search for “First Lutheran Church” at 3315 Ave G, Kearney. Create a profile.

OFFERING ENVELOPES:

If you contribute by check, please put it inside an offering envelope. If you contribute by check without using an envelope, please write your offering envelope number on your check. This will enable us to record your contributions accurately. Any loose checks received without an envelope number noted may not be reflected on your contribution statement. Contributions to the Ministry Budget and Facilities Budget can be combined in one check. Thank you for your help!

If you would like a giving number instead of paper envelopes, please contact the church office.

If you have any questions or need assistance using the electronic giving options or need offering envelopes, please contact Stacy Seim in the church office: (308)237-5544 or SSeim@FirstLutheranKearney.org

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GENEROSITY TO
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH’S MINISTRY!**

Church Office

office@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Pastor

rcarlson@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

Co-Pastor

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Kandy Bacon

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Kathy Benne

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Lead Teacher for the Preschool

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Kyle Means

President

Kelly Russman

Vice President

Shirley Smalley

Treasurer

Lee Fritson

Secretary

Judy Henning

Karen Emal

Bill Schmidt

PJ Bartels

Deb Schauer

Pastor Michelle

Pastor Rick



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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat/Sun, June 1/2	Worship - 6:00 pm and 8:45 am, 10:30 am Worship at Brookstone Gardens at 2:00 pm
Sat/Sun, June 8/9 Saturday, June 8th Sunday, June 9th	Worship - 6:00 pm and 8:45 am, 10:30 am Grace and Sam Lueders/Rosenau wedding Budget Forum - Centennial Hall at 9:45 am *Leave for Confirmation Camp June 9th - June 14th
Monday, June 10	Office Move day - volunteers needed! 9am - 2pm
Sat/Sun, June 15/16 Sunday, June 16th	Worship - 6:00 pm and 8:45 am, 10:30 am Happy Father's Day
Sat/Sun, June 22/23	Worship - 6:00 pm, 8:45 am and 10:30 am
Sat/Sun, June 29/30 Sunday, June 30	Worship - 6:00 pm, 8:45 am and 10:30 am Annual Congregation meeting - 9:45 am

Misc. items for sale in NORTH HALL

Free will donation.

First Come, first serve. (NO HOLDS)

We need it all GONE ASAP!!

Stop in anytime the church is open.



FREE FOOD!



NOW that we have your attention, we need help moving our church offices to the southeast corner of the church to prepare for renovation.



- Monday, June 10
- 9:00 am - 2pm
- Coffee and donuts available!



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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>

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

Sign Up for Weekly Email Updates: 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

To save postage costs and receive "The Messenger" via email exclusively, please call or email the church office.