

THE MARCH MESSENGER

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



Ash Wednesday Worship Services March 5th

**Two Services:
12 noon and 6:30 pm**

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and a reminder of mortality. It marks the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Christians in preparation for Easter.

Join us Wednesday Evenings for Lenten Services. This year our theme is: With Awe & Love and focuses on a midweek series built around Luther's Small Catechism. The Small Catechism was designed as a teaching tool of the faith, not just within the church but in the home.

Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. Thus, he created "*The Small Catechism*"; a simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's prayer, and the Sacraments. Each week of our mid-week Lenten service held at 6:30 pm, we will focus on one part of *The Small Catechism*. Studying *The Small Catechism* offers a way of growing closer to God by thinking on God's word and the basics of our faith.



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

TABLE OF CONTENTS, RESOURCES AND PRAYERS

Inside this issue:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESOURCES & PRAYERS 2
STEWARDSHIP LETTER 3
RENOVATION UPDATE 4
MISSION OUTREACH 5 -7
VOLUNTEERS 8
EVENTS 9 - 10
FLY 11
NEW MEMBERS 12
ADULT MINISTRY 13
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 14
THANK YOUS 15
COUNCIL UPDATE 16
MUSIC MINISTRY 17
PRESCHOOL 18
WOMEN OF THE ELCA 19
WORSHIP THEMES 20
FINANCES 21
LEADERSHIP 22
CALENDAR 23

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**



Prayers of Comfort and Peace for...

- Gary and Pat Anderson on the death of Gary's brother, Lowell Anderson.
- Yvonne Hoffman's family on her death.
- Lynn Brewster on the death of her mother, Janet Erickson

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Dear First Lutheran Family,

The stewardship committee would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have submitted their Intent Cards in our *Together for Joy Stewardship Campaign*. Your thoughtful participation plays an essential role in helping us plan our budget and ministry efforts for the coming year. We are excited to witness all of the work God has planned for our congregation, and celebrate all the ways God has changed our community through you this year. Your commitment to supporting the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church is deeply appreciated.

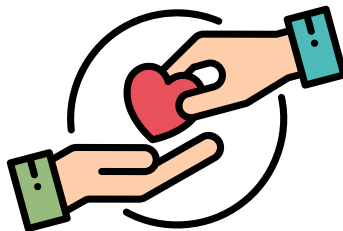
For those who have not yet had the chance to complete and return their Intent Cards, there is still time! We encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so at your earliest convenience. Your response, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference in shaping the work we are able to accomplish together as a congregation.

Throughout the month of March, we invite you to watch for announcements prior to worship highlighting the many ways your generosity and stewardship enable impactful ministry in our community and beyond. These stories are a testament to how God's work is being done through the hands and hearts of our congregation. Through local partners such as Compass and the Jubilee Center, to global partners such as the Synod and Mission arm of our church, God reaches far through our hands! We hope these conversations and testimonies inspire us to not grow weary in the good work set before us.

Thank you again for your partnership in ministry and your faithful support of First Lutheran Church.

May God bless and guide us all as we continue to walk together in faith.

In Christ's service,
Stewardship Committee of First Lutheran Church
Randy Hinrichs, Mark Kottmeyer, Pastor Rick Carlson, Sharon Liljehorn, CJ Sabah,
Annette Schwartz, PJ Bartels, Logan Ellis



RENOVATION UPDATE

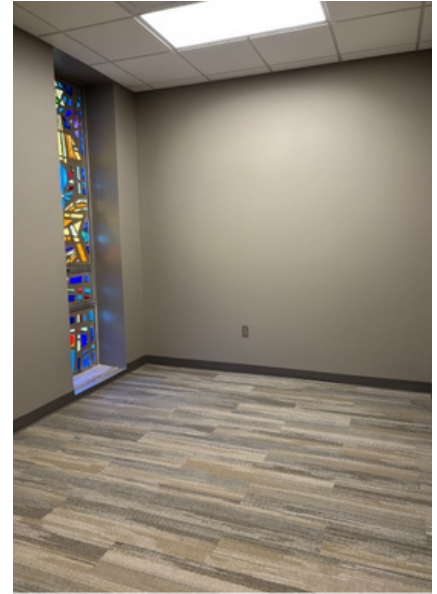
Reception
Area



Passage to
Quilter's Room



Pastor's
Library



New Nursery
Area



Nursery
Bathroom



Old Boilers
in Basement



The renovation is almost complete.
Save the Date: Sunday, April 27th
After the 11:00 am Service
“Dedication Ceremony”

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

S.A.F.E. Center March Donations: Household Cleaning Products

**“Sharing Shelf”
March S.A.F.E. Center
Donation:
Household Cleaning
Products!**

**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.

You can also donate used/seasonal clothing and furniture.

Please call ahead with furniture donations.

Tax receipts are provided for all donations.

The Safe Center has a wish-list on their website of needed items.

safecenter.org

Hours: Monday–Thursday 9am – 5pm Phone: 308.237.2599

Crisis Line: 877.237.2513

Address: 620 E. 25th Street Suite 14, Kearney, NE 68847



Join us for the 21st Annual Purses for a Purpose Purse Auction, benefiting The S.A.F.E. Center's mission to provide shelter, support, and resources for survivors of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking.

This year's theme, Walk With Impact, highlights our community's commitment to empowering and uplifting survivors on their journey to safety and healing.

Visit the Kearney S.A.F.E. Center Facebook page for details.

Unable to attend? Donations are being accepted!

S.A.F.E. Center
Empower. Support. Educate.
Est. 2005
PURSES FOR A PURPOSE
Walk with Impact
"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
-Mother Teresa
Saturday, April 5th, 2025

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



The February Annual Meeting for Kearney Area Habitat looked back at a very successful year with the completion of the 100th house.

As we look forward to the 33rd year of home building in Kearney, we are seeing some continuing challenges:

- Qualifying families this coming year will be a challenge as the economy challenges us to find families with sufficient income levels.
- Affordable Housing (owning or renting) is no longer affordable to many families due to increases in the cost of land, materials, and labor.
- The ripple effect of what we do is without end!
 - Providing simple, decent, affordable shelter.
 - Providing opportunities for families to build wealth.
 - Providing a safe, healthy place for children to learn and grow.
 - Providing a safety net of friends and neighbors.



Chairman Patrick Waltemath welcomes everyone at the Annual Appreciation Dinner.



2024 Homes Built



Pastor Rick Carlson, Opening Prayer

The homebuilders for 2025 are: Sylvia Par Munoz; Haylee Chadrick and Tyson Knaub. First Lutheran members serving on the board in 2025 are Pastor John Gosswein and Judy Fisher.

2025 Executive Board –

- Patrick Waltemath – President
- Kati Osterbuhr – Vice president
- Angela Stelling – Secretary
- Keith Lindvall – Treasurer

Charlie Pickens – Assistant Treasurer

The 2025 Building Season begins April 5th with devotions and doughnuts at 9 am.

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

**EMERGENCY
ALERT:**
You can help
neighbors affected
by California fires

 YOUR DONATION IS SECURE

California Wildfires

In January 2025, wildfires destroyed entire communities in and around Los Angeles. People affected by the wildfires are most in need of shelter, food, clean drinking water, household items, clothing, and mental health support.

Lutheran World Relief is working with partners to provide critical assistance to affected households. With generous support from our donors, we are providing food, bottled water, clean up kits, blankets, clothing, gift cards for essential needs, as well as trauma counseling to approximately 2,300 individuals who have been directly affected by these devastating wildfires.

To donate, visit: give.lwr.org

The Children's weekly "Noisy Offerings" go towards "Operation Shine". Operation Shine Camps are three-day camps for children ages 7-12 experiencing Autism Spectrum Disorders and related Conditions. Donation boxes are also on the Welcome stations.

**OPERATION
SHINE
CAMP**

**WEEKEND CAMP THEME
RED CARPET/VIP**

**DAY CAMP
May 31**

**WEEKEND CAMPS
June 6-8 & June 27-29**

Camp is held at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp
Hordville, NE

HOPE. HAPPENS. HERE

VOLUNTEERS



Did you know we have volunteers within our church that help during the week too?

Our volunteers deep cleaned the sanctuary and preschool classrooms. The dust from renovation travels everywhere!

Our amazing snow crew shoveled snow and kept our sidewalks clear during the dangerous wind chills, not just during the weekend services but also during the week for the office staff and preschool students.

Volunteers have also taken care of our outdoor and indoor plants, repaired our outdoor "Little Library", and cleaned the Preschool Playground area, refills items in the pew racks, etc. There are so many areas within the church that our volunteers help with, it's impossible to list them all!

Several of our members also volunteer within the community on a weekly basis. Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Compass, and Jubilee Meals, to name a few.

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

SPECIAL DATES / EVENTS

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and a reminder of mortality. It marks the start of the great forty days of Lent. As we journey with Jesus, learn and follow as disciples, and see all that God has done and promises to do, we are invited to respond.

Please join us Wednesday, March 5th for Ash Wednesday service. We are offering two services: 12 noon and 6:30 pm.

**Ash
Wednesday
March 5th**



Services at 12noon & 6:30 pm

There will be NO Youth Activities or Feeding the Flock on Ash Wednesday, March 5.



Please join us for 12:00 Noon & 6:30 pm service

Don't forget to move your clocks forward!

Feeding the Flock will continue during Lent.




Daylight Savings Time Starts March 9, 2025

Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night or Sunday morning the weekend of March 9.

Wednesday Evenings During Lent:
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9

- 5:15 pm - Praiser Bells - Sanctuary
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock - Centennial Hall
- 5:45 pm - First Communion Class - Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers-Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm - Midweek Lenten Worship - Sanctuary Centering on Luther's Small Catechism
- 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- FLY - Check your emails for updates



Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Lenten Service.

Lenten Services



6:30pm: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9

SPECIAL DATES / EVENTS

Jubilee Meals



FLC will host meals on Thursday evenings in March.

Please contact Paula Peterson at 308-440-2424 with any questions.

First Lutheran Church continues to host Jubilee Meals on Thursday evenings.

First Lutheran Church will be hosting a “Life Screening Event” Tuesday, March 25th. Pick up a flyer on the welcome station for more information.

Pick up a flyer from the Welcome Station

You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: First Lutheran Church

When: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

Trusted by over 10 million customers.

Plan to attend the concert “Natalie & Friends” Sunday afternoon, April 6th.

NATALIE & FRIENDS IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025

3:00 PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Participants:
Natalie Radcliffe-flute,
Chancel Bells, Praiser Bells,
UNK Flute Choir,
and Assorted Performers

No charge. Freewill offering accepted to support the handbell program.

Save the date:

May 4, 2025 8:45 am service: Affirmation of Baptism Service. Reception following service honoring new confirmands in Centennial Hall. 8th Grade Confirmation Students: Photo and paperwork due March 21st to Jen Puls.

FLY NEWS



Hello First Lutheran Families,

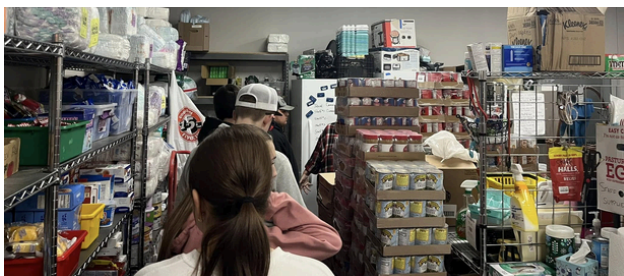
We have had a very eventful February as we helped out the Safe Center, and we had the opportunity to connect with Campus Lutheran. Thank you all for your prayers as my daughter was in the hospital twice: she is feeling much better now and is running laps around me.

March looks to be just as filled as February with fun events! We will be learning different ways to pray as we enter Lent. We are solidifying our mission trip itinerary, and I would like to hear back from by the end of March if you can make it. We are asking for a \$100 deposit as we book the planetarium and underground salt mine visits. The total cost for the mission trip is \$400 a person. Thanks to the generosity of the community and success of our fundraising efforts, there is strong financial support available. I will have forms available this month for those interested.

We will be gone early June 7th, and return the afternoon of June 10th. We will be traveling to Hutchinson, Kansas. We will help lead worship and help some local organizations. We will then travel to Superior, Nebraska and assist some local organizations and learn more about the land of Nebraska. We will then go to Minden to have a breakfast at Pastor Logan's house, help with Pioneer Village in Minden, then get back to Kearney!

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you have, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Pastor Logan



New Members

Please welcome our new members who joined
First Lutheran Church the weekend of February 22nd and 23rd.



Linda Peterson and Jane David



Jimmy and Courtney Riley



Jantha Jamison



Sam, Jami, Zachary & Madison
Wulf



Chuck and Cathy Meyer

*Lord, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom as we welcome each of our
new members into this fellowship.
May each person feel Your love and presence as they join us.*

ADULT MINISTRY

Please join Pastor Rick for an adult Sunday School session
March 9 - March 30 in Centennial Hall.
Join us anytime!

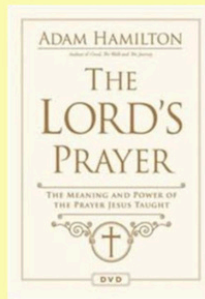
Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick:

Sundays | 9:50 am | Centennial Hall
March 9, 16, 23 & 30

The Nicene Creed:
Where it
came from and
why it still matters



Wednesday morning Adult Bible Study. The last meeting date for this session will be Ash Wednesday, March 5.



Please join us for an Adult Bible Study on the book “The Lord’s Prayer”

- Wednesdays through Ash Wednesday
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- Meet in Classroom 14
- Feel free to join us anytime!

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

**All these items can be found
on the backs of the pews.**



Did you know??

The following items can be found
in the pew racks:

- Offering Envelopes
- Prayer Cards
- Online Giving Cards
- Communion Registration Cards
- Hand Sanitizer
- Paper for little artists

*Some of the smaller items may
fall behind the pew racks.*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



A FROG Coordinator is needed to join our vibrant community and ignite young hearts with the love of Christ.

Make it fun and do it with a friend!

Wednesday evening childcare possibly available.

Volunteer opportunity:
FROG COORDINATOR
 for the 2025-26 school year

Be a part of our fun Wednesday evening kid's programming!

Main duties include:

- Find volunteers to be teachers
- Create a schedule for the upcoming year
- Be the contact person throughout the year for teachers and congregation

Curriculum & materials provided!

COLLABORATE WITH A FRIEND TO BE CO-COORDINATORS!

Contact the office if interested or with any questions: volunteers@firstlutherankeeconomy.org

First Communion Classes start soon!



4th and 5th Grade First Communion Classes

- Wednesdays
- 5:45 pm - 6:20 pm
- March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9
- Fellowship Hall
- Please register by February 23!

Class members will receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday Service on April 17th at 6:30pm



We will have a donation jar available if you would like to donate directly!

Come Support First Lutheran Church Preschool Monday, April 28th 5:00 to 8:00pm A percentage of the proceeds go to the Scholarship program!

Preschool Staff and preschool volunteers will be onsite helping.

Are you looking for a way to meet with other young parents, share ideas and create new friendships? Please take a survey so we can find out how many would be interested!

PARENTS OF YOUNG KIDS GROUP

All Are Welcome

Scan to take the interest survey!

GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER PARENTS OF KIDS ELEMENTARY OR YOUNGER!

Contact Pastor Logan for more information
 308-237-5544
lellis@firstlutherankeeconomy.org

THANK YOU

thank you

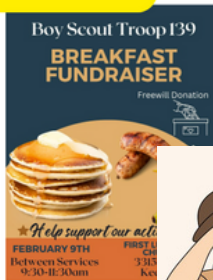


Thank you so much for supporting First Lutheran Church Preschool! We hope you had a wonderful time listening to our songs in church, visiting with everyone, watching the slideshow, looking at our art on display, enjoying the yummy food and maybe even a little crafting. We had a blast! Your donations raised \$1,216 that will go towards our new cars seats that will be needed soon. We are blessed with generous hearts from the preschool families and church families!

Thank you again for living generously!
Sincerely, Preschool Staff and Preschool Board

**Thanks for supporting the Scouts!
Over \$646 was raised from your
free will donations!**

thanks
for your
support



Boy Scout Troop 139 would like to thank the Wayne Karschner family for their continual service with folding our donated flags that we collect in the narthex. We truly appreciate it!

Thank you, Karschner Family!



FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

Here is an update from your Church Council and the latest happenings at First.

The Office Remodel/Construction project is nearly finished! We did a walk through this month to tabulate a final “punch list”. This included checking for nicks, flaws, etc., that will be corrected by the contractor.

The next step includes installation of the office equipment (scheduled for the end of March), internet/phone cabling (currently happening), and moving the staff (after Lent and Easter). The replacement of the faulty boilers in the basement are not scheduled until spring. During that time, the heat will be taken offline in the Sanctuary for a couple of days. We have decided it is better to wait for warmer weather to accomplish this 😊.

We are planning a celebration and dedication of the new area the last weekend of April.

Yours In Christ,

Lee Fritson
Council President

On behalf of PJ Bartels (VP), Deb Schauer (Secretary), Lisa Parish (Treasurer), Karen Emal, Christine Fisher, Bill Schmidt, Tyler Schwartz, Shirley Smalley, Pastor Rick Carlson and Pastor Michelle Carlson.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Praising God through music!
The choirs practice weekly and all are welcome to join!

Chancel Choir

rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. (7pm during Lenten Services)
High School through adults are welcome
CJ Sabah--director

Chancel Bells

rehearses on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.
Choir is open to high schoolers through adults
Natalie Radcliffe--director

Sound Offering

Praise Band rehearses on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 pm
If interested contact Stacy Bean
Stacy Bean--director

Praiser Bells

rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 5:45 pm
This choir is for 3rd grade through 8th grade
Angela Wright--director

Heavenly Treble Makers

rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 6:45 pm (6:10 pm - 6:25 pm during
Lenten Services)
This is a vocal choir for middle schoolers
Angela Wright--director

Children's Choir

rehearses on Sunday mornings during Sunday School and Wednesday
evenings during FROG.
All children are welcome.
Amanda Lewis - Director



Winter & Spring Children's Choir Dates

March 16th - 11am Service

April 13th - 8:45am Service - Please have your child come
to the sanctuary at 8:15am to quickly run through
the song with all the choirs.

May 11th - 8:45am Service

Questions call or text 308-240-0872 Thanks! Amanda Lewis

MARCH PRESCHOOL NEWS



3 & 4 Year Old Class

In February, we learned all about Groundhog Day and explored shadows. Our Muffins with Mom celebration was so much fun! We got to make mudpies with them! We learned about our beating heart, celebrated Valentine's Day, learned about poison safety, and ways to take care of our teeth. We also learned about the importance of seeing our dentist regularly, and we finished the month with one of our favorite subjects, Dinosaurs. We focused on the letters M, X, N and U.

March is sure to be a fun month! We will be learning all about different modes of transportation, leprechauns, pots of gold, celebrating St. Patrick's Day, and we will start talking about the Easter holiday and springtime! We will focus on the letters K, Y and Z.

God's Blessings to you all,
Mrs. Sonya and Ms. Marissa



SAVE THE DATE:
Monday, April 28 5-8pm
Preschool Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch

PreK

Hello First Lutheran Congregation!

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

Our field trip to Pizza Ranch was fun! We sang all the way there and back. The students told us some really funny jokes too! They loved every minute and some said it was the best day ever! The kids actually made pizza and watched how they fry chicken.

The game room is so cool too!

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

Our Valentine's Party was a blast! We played a heart memory game and musical hearts. Their valentine boxes and valentines were beautiful! We have very creative families!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss on the week of his birthday. We are already on the letter "T". They have learned a ton of kindergarten words already! Some students know 40 plus sight words!

Soon we will have the Letter U week and celebrate with some St. Patrick's Day fun! Their might be a leprechaun making mischief in our room. We shall see!

Our March field trip will be to the Kearney Area Animal Shelter and is some of the student's favorite field trip!

Our spring break will follow KPS from March 24th - 28th.

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

Many March Blessings to you and your families!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

First Lutheran Women's Events Calendar

2025

Mar 3 Board Meeting, 7 pm in Centennial Hall

Up Coming Events

Apr 26 Spring Event, 10:30 am in Centennial Hall

Jun 2 Board Meeting, 7 pm Centennial Hall

Jul 7 General Meeting, 7 pm in Centennial Hall - Election of Officers

The Nebraska Synodical Women's Events Calendar

Jan 18 **Winter Retreat** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island.
The theme for Winter Retreat is *"The Fire of Your Heart"*.

HELP NEEDED

Baptismal Banners

We are looking for someone to help color symbols on the squares used to make the Baptismal Banners. There are patterns to trace for each design on the white squares.

The yellow sashing and back/binding are machine sewn and the symbol in the white square can be hand or machine quilted.

So, if anyone would like to trace the patterns, Beth can still machine quilt. If you have any questions or would like to help, you can contact Beth Jochen at:
bethjochen@gmail.com or call 308-233-0633



First Lutheran's Women's Circle Groups

Deborah Circle

5:00 pm - 3rd Monday

Co-chairs: Deb Schauer

308-233-2669

Gloria Circle

12:00 pm - 3rd Thursday

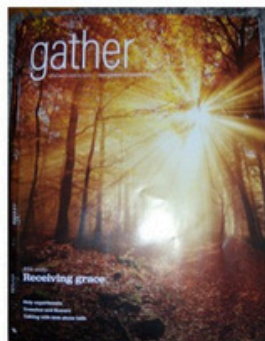
Chair: Judy Workman

Naomi Circle

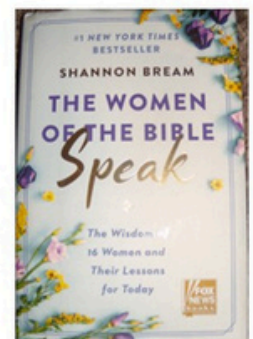
7:00 pm - 4th Thursday

Chair: Judy Niemann

Deborah Circle is currently using the bible study from the Gather Magazine



Gloria and Naomi Circles are currently using the Bible study from the "The Women of the Bible Speak"



MARCH WORSHIP THEMES

March 2, 2025

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

EXODUS 34:29-35; PSALM 99; 2

CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2; LUKE 9:28-36
[37-43a]

Witness to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

March 9, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11; PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16; ROMANS 10:8b-13; LUKE 4:1-13

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. There is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

March 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18; PSALM 27;
PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1; LUKE 13:31-35

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure.

Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord".

March 23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

ISAIAH 55:1-9; PSALM 63:1-8; 1

CORINTHIANS 10:1-13; LUKE 13:1-9

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

March 30, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

JOSHUA 5:9-12; PSALM 32; 2

CORINTHIANS 5:16-21; LUKE 15:1-3, 11b - 32

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away....the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are given for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

January Finance Report				
Ministry Budget:	Jan 2025	YTD '24-'25	YTD '23-'24	
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 47,746	\$ 441,527	\$ 421,612	
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (23,155)	\$(477,085)	\$(409,105)	
Total 2024-2025 Ministry Budget: \$768,954				
Facilities Budget:	Jan 2025	YTD '24-'25	YTD '23-'24	
Revenue	\$4,100	\$40,433	\$42,495	
Expenditures	\$(7,145)	\$(19,511)	\$(14,563)	
Total 2024-2025 Facilities Budget: \$44,100 (Facilities Budget is not the same as the Capital Campaign)				

OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Thank you to all those who regularly use the weekly offering envelopes. It may not be possible to keep an accurate recording of your contributions if you don't use your envelopes.

- If you're unable to contribute without using the envelopes, please write your offering envelope number on your check. This will enable us to record your contributions accurately.
- Any loose checks that are received without an envelope number noted might not be reflected on your contribution statement.
- Contributions to the Ministry Budget and Facilities Budget can be combined in one check.
- The Facilities Budget is separate from the Capital Campaign.
- Please write in the memo if it's for the Capital Campaign.
- If you are not receiving offering envelopes, please contact Stacy in the church office.

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

Donate On-line

Please consider using VANCO Mobile Faith, as you give and donate to help us lower expenses. You can select a one-time OR a 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.
 - Open the app to view the box "Find Your Church". Enter zip code: 68847.
 - Select First Lutheran Church, 3315 G Avenue, Kearney.
- Select "Sign Up" to create a profile or "Log In".



Thank you so much for your faithful generosity to First Lutheran Church's ministry!

Church Office

office@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Pastors

Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

rcarlson@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

mcarlson@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Staff

Kandy Bacon

Administrative Assistant

kbacon@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Kathy Benne

Director of Communications and Events

kbenne@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Pastor Logan Ellis

*Director of Engagement: Youth, Congregation
and Community*

lellis@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Amanda Lewis

Lead Teacher for the Preschool

amandalewis@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Jen Puls

Records Management

JPuls@region3.net

Natalie Radcliffe

Music Coordinator

natalieradcliffe@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Sarah Schweitzer

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

Volunteers@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Stacy Seim

Bookkeeper

sseim@firstlutheran Kearney.org

Congregation Council

Lee Fritson

President

PJ Bartels

Vice President

Lisa Parish

Treasurer

Deb Schauer

Secretary

Karen Emal

Christine Fisher

Bill Schmidt

Tyler Schwartz

Shirley Smalley

Pastor Michelle

Pastor Rick



Linda Fowler

President

Betty Heggemeyer

Vice President

Bev Vacha

Secretary

Jo Smallcomb

Treasurer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please review the calendar at FirstLutheranKearney.org for updates

Laying on of Hands the 1st and 3rd Weekends

Sat./Sun., Mar. 1/2
 Sun. Mar. 2
 Wed. Mar. 5
 Sat./Sun. Mar. 8/9
 Sun. Mar. 9
 Wed. Mar. 12
 Sat./Sun. Mar. 15/16
 Sun. Mar. 16
 Wed. Mar. 19
 Fri. Mar. 21
 Sat./Sun. Mar. 22/23
 Sun. Mar. 23
 Wed. Mar. 26
 Sat./Sun. Mar. 29/30
 Sun. Mar. 30

March Events

Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 Brookestone Gardens Worship - 2:00 pm
 Ash Wednesday - 12 noon and 6:30 pm Worship
 Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 9:50 am - Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick - Cent. Hall
 Mid-Week Lenten Service - 6:30 pm
 Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 9:50 am - Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick - Cent. Hall
 Mid-Week Lenten Service - 6:30 pm
 Deadline for Confirmation students to submit paperwork to Jen.
 Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 9:50 am - Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick - Cent. Hall
 Mid-Week Lenten Service - 6:30 pm
 Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 9:50 am - Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick - Cent. Hall

Wednesday Evenings During Lent:

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9

- 5:15 pm - Praisers Bells - Sanctuary
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock - Centennial Hall
- 5:45 pm - First Communion Class - Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers-Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm - Midweek Lenten Worship - Sanctuary
Centering on Luther's Small Catechism
- 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- FLY - Check your emails for updates



April Events

Wed. Apr. 2
 Sat./Sun., Apr. 5/6
 Sun. Apr. 6
 Sun. Apr. 6
 Wed. Apr. 9
 Sat./Sun. Apr. 12/13
 Thurs. Apr. 17
 Fri. Apr. 18
 Sat. Apr. 19
 Sun. Apr. 20
 Wed. Apr. 23
 Sat. Apr. 26
 Sun. Apr. 27

 Mon. Apr 28
 Wed. Apr. 30

Mid-Week Lenten Service - 6:30 pm
 Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 Brookestone Gardens Worship - 2:00 pm
 Natalie & Friends in Concert / 3:00 pm
 Mid-Week Lenten Service - 6:30 pm
 Worship - Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 Maundy Thursday Service - 6:30 pm | Affirmation of Baptism
 Good Friday Service - 6:30 pm
 Holy Saturday Service - 6:00 pm
 Easter Services: 7:00 am, 8:45 am and 11:00 am
 Wednesday Evening Youth Activities Return
 Worship - with Cantata Sat. 6:00 pm
 11:00 am - Together for Joy and Thanksgiving: One service
(Traditional) with Cantata
 12 noon - Dedication of New Office Area / Open House.
 12:15 pm - Potluck Luncheon
 Preschool Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Last night of Wednesday evening activities until fall.

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:

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: 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.**