

A Special Message from Kaitlynn Larson - Our Missionary in Colombia. See what God is doing through her ministry, thanks to your support!

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA | JAN-JUNE 2025



Featured: the new Bishop John Rojas, Bishop Vice-President Consuelo Preciado, and the new National Administrative Committee.

The first half of 2025 has flown by! And it has been a busy few months here in Colombia, so I want to share some of the highlights with you all. First, on a personal note, I began the year with my final approval interview. In the ordination process (or the process of becoming a pastor) of the ELCA, the final step is a comprehensive evaluation/interview, during which they determine whether to approve you for ordination or not. And... I was approved! Next comes the part of “first call” or my first official job as a pastor, and hopefully, I will have more updates on this in the coming months.

Regarding my work in Colombia... I am still accompanying the congregation, Solo Por Fe, and the True Vine Project (see photos below). I support them with weekly devotionals, pastoral care, visits, and worship on Sundays. I am also supporting the IELCO (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia) with the construction of a Gender Justice Policy.

Next update... The IELCO had its General Assembly in March. The General Assembly is held every 5 years, and there are elections for Bishop, Bishop Vice-president, and the National Administrative Committee. Pastor John Rojas was elected as Bishop, and Pastor Consuelo Preciado was elected as Bishop Vice-President (she is the 2nd female elected as Bishop Vice-President in the IELCO). The assembly was accompanied by the ELCA, the Lutheran World Federation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, and the Church of Sweden.

Finally, the executive committee of AMMPARO of the ELCA visited Colombia at the beginning of the year. In short, **AMMPARO** is the ELCA’s Migrant Ministry; it’s the ELCA’s strategy to **A**ccompany **M**igrants with **P**rotection, **A**dvocacy, **R**epresentation, and **O**pportunities. With all the things happening in regards to immigration in the United States, the repercussions are felt worldwide, and I was grateful for the accompaniment of this team at the beginning of the year. Being able to learn from them and to share with them was a beautiful exchange, and it was a testament to how powerful we can be if we all work together as one body of Christ.



Featured above: the AMMPARO Executive Team and leaders from the IELCO learning from an immigration studies professor.

KAITLYNNE'S NEWSLETTER CONT'D.

True Vine Project

I am still supporting the True Vine Project and the congregation, Solo Por Fe, with worship and weekly devotionals. The photo featured to the right is of one of our devotional times. And the photo below is of our Mother's Day celebration.

The True Vine is a project that works with people who are differently abled and/or deaf and people who have migrated from Venezuela. Stay tuned for more stories from the project in my next newsletter.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please pray for all those who are affected by immigration systems; Pray for those who are separated from their families or who are living in fear of what may come.

Please pray for Bishop John and Pastor Consuelo during this transition. I also ask for prayers for all the Bishops, staff of the ELCA, and worldwide who are in transitions with their leadership.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY?

- Make an individual gift by check payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" with "Kaitlynn Larson GCS2071" in the memo line. Mail your check to:

ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

- Make an individual gift by credit or debit card by visiting [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](https://www.elca.org/MissionaryGiving) OR by calling 800-638-3522 and specify "GCS2071"
- By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication, and support - contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2820, or globalchurch@elca.org.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO
KAITLYNNE.LARSON@ELCA.ORG

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Prayer Ventures for this month 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.

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...



- The friends and family of Lane Nansel on his death.
- The friends and family of Ron Kruse on his death.
- The friends and family of Denise Scott on her death.
- The family and friends of Kyle Poff on his death.
- Jerry & Patty Ibsen and family on the death of Patty's mother, Mary Lou Mintling.
- Larry & Nancy Merz on the death of their brother-in-law, Keith Ramsey.
- Jeff and Debbie Merz and family on the death of their uncle, Keith Ramsey.
- The family and friends of Heath Burgeson on his death.
- Brian and Jordan Cochran and family on the death of Brian's mother, Mary Kay Cochran.
- David and Janet Dwiggins on the death of David's father, Daniel Dwiggins.
- The friends and family of Val Lane on his death.

MISSION OUTREACH



Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity Update – Construction is moving along steadily on both homes! Siding is nearly complete, sheds are painted, and soffit installation is underway. The first home is prepped for insulation and drywall, with wiring and

plumbing nearly done. Driveway prep is also complete.

Big thanks to Buffalo Roofing for shingling both homes and sheds. Volunteers made great progress with siding and painting—Sylvia and her crew painted much of her home, while teams at Tyson and Haylee's pushed forward outside.

Special appreciation to Holly from Prizm Electric, Jerry and Ken for site and driveway work, and the St. James team for leading devotions and providing lunch with PEO-EG. Holy Cross Lutheran joined in with a devotion from Jerry Gloystein and a taco lunch. Inside Sylvia's home, volunteers primed walls. At Tyson and Haylee's, insulation was blown in, paint was completed on the front peak, and concrete was poured for the driveway and sidewalk.

Thank you to everyone who continues to serve and support—your impact is visible in every nail, brushstroke, and smile.



**First Lutheran's Habitat for
Humanity Work Day is
Saturday, August 2nd.**

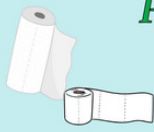
**Please sign up to help or
serve/prepare food on the board
in the Narthex.**



**We look forward to your help with these volunteer opportunities on August 2nd.
You can sign up on the board in the Narthex.**

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

S.A.F.E. Center Donations for July:



Paper Products

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenexes



Please put on the sharing shelf in the narthex.



S.A.F.E. Center Donations for August:



Dental Products:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash

Please set items on the sharing 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.

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

The days in Tanzania will be full and rich. This two-week adventure provides you with a wonderful introduction to life in a developing country through visits to churches, schools, health centers, ministry sites, and local villages. Our safari will be to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.



Nebraska Synod, ELCA
Tanzania Vision Trip
Jan. 25 - Feb. 10, 2026

Visit: NebraskaSynod.org for details

ELECTION RESULTS

A special “THANKS” to those who were able to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 29th and place their votes.

Election Results

Church Council

Scott Darveau
Jay Kuecker
Shirley Smalley (incumbent)

Endowment

Annette Schwartz

Nominating Committee

Mollie Akerson
Cindy Wessels
Renae Zimmer

Preschool Board

Christine Fisher (incumbent)
Blair Peterson
Jane Ziebarth-Bovill

Congregational Council Leadership:

President: PJ Bartels
Vice President: Scott Darveau
Secretary: Deb Schauer
Treasure: Lisa Parish



Congregational Council Members:

Christine Fisher
Jay Kuecker
Tyler Schwartz
Shirley Smalley
Terry Volker
Pastor Michelle Carlson
Pastor Rick Carlson



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assisting Ministers are needed!



You can serve once a month, or be a substitute.
Please contact Sarah Schweitzer
Email: Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org

Calling All Donut Lovers and Coffee Pourers!



We're looking for friendly faces to help host our Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship time between services!

Questions? Reach out to Christine Fisher at (308) 224-1161 or 76fisherce@gmail.com.

Let's make sweet fellowship even sweeter!

You can sign up from the link located in the weekly newsletter, on the FLC website, or call or email Christine.

We Need YOU — Find Your Place to Serve!

Our church family is blessed with so many gifts—and we need your help to put them into action! We're looking for volunteers in several key areas, and there's a place for everyone to serve, no matter your age or experience.

📌 Here are a few ways you can get involved:

Serve on a Ministry Team:

- Congregational Council
- Worship Life Team
- Mission Outreach Team
- Music
- Imaging and Technology Team
- Witness and Members Team
- Care and Growth Team
- Personnel Team
- Property and Management Team
- Stewardship Team
- Memorials Committee
- Preschool Board
- Mutual Ministry Team

Volunteer Opportunities

- Ushers
- Coffee Hosts
- Communion Assistants
- Radio Broadcast Sponsor
- Assisting Ministers
- Media Booth Volunteers
- Greeters
- Confirmation Small Group Leaders
- Sunday School Teachers
- F.R.O.G. Teachers
- Pew Rack Cleaners (replace items in back of pew racks, removed old papers)

For more information, please visit:

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

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

On September 14, we will celebrate God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. During Sunday School, students will help put personal care and school kits together for Lutheran World Relief. This is a great way for the students to make an impact on the world around them. To do this, we need supplies to make the kits.

- For the personal care kit we are in need of lightweight bath size towels, sturdy combs, and metal nail clippers.
- Items needed for the school kits are:
 - 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college rule paper
 - 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side & inches on the other
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with steel blades)
 - Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
 - Blue or black ballpoint pens
 - Box of 16 or 24 crayons
 - 2 ½ inch eraser
 - One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag (plain color - no designs)



We would like to continue the tradition of sending 100 school kits from First Lutheran, so if you can help that would be great. The donation box for Lutheran World Relief donations is in the quilt room. If you would like to help, but can't get out to shop or don't know what to get, you could get a gift card to Amy Behrhorst, Nita Deyo or Deb Schauer (Lutheran World Relief coordinators) and they could purchase what is needed.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We have an Amazon Wishlist you can shop at and it will ship directly to First Lutheran Church.
Please contact the church office for the link.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

BABY CARE KITS



SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Download a Diaper Tip Sheet from our website.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the Kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

- ☐ **TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- ☐ **TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- ☐ **TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- ☐ **FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ☐ **ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- ☐ **TWO** pairs of socks
- ☐ **ONE** hand towel, dark color recommended
- ☐ **TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- ☐ **TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins

HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS

- Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents

THANK YOU

With warmest thanks
for all your help.

We thank you so very much for hosting us on our travels to Denver for our servant learning trip. We appreciate your hospitality and it was a warm and fun space for our teens to stay in.

In peace and God's blessings to you.
Pastor Andy Wendle
Connie Dörner, Faith Formation Director
First Lutheran Church
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Thank you for your hospitality,
we greatly appreciate it!
The youth room and basement
are awesome and we had
so much fun!

- immanuel church

- Phoebe

- Rylie

- Zachary

- Lila

Rylan

Alyssa

Ar

Kyerie

Abby

Dear First Lutheran,
Thank you so much
for providing us a resting
place on our adventure
to Colorado. From Kathy's
great communication to the
ice cream to the
"two alarm" fire - all of
it was amazing! You have
a great youth area, which
we very much enjoyed.
Since we are from the
"Kubb Capital of North
America" we have gifted
you the game of Kubb.

we hope you enjoy it!

With Gratitude,
St. John's Lutheran
Faith Adventure Group
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Eric

Rachel

Claire

Sam

Noran

Don

Jack

Amanau

Owen

Thanks for letting us stay!

- Matt

Thank you for the awesome
stay! - Jason

Thank you for
your hospitality!

- Sofia

Thank you so much for
hosting our team and for
providing dinner!

- Eli

Thank you for the wonderful
place to stay - Humbert

Thank you for opening up
your church to us!

Thank you for letting us stay
here for the night!

Thank you for letting us stay
here, it was lovely!

Thank you for giving us
a place to sleep, it was
great to be in contact with
you!

- DW

THANK YOU FOR
LETTING US STAY

HERE! - Andies

Thank you for the
food and beer!

- Alphonso

Thank you for hosting
us! - Yvonne

Thank you for
your hospitality!

- Nicole

Dear First Lutheran,
Thank you so much for allowing
our team to stay in your space!

We had ample space to spread
out and rest after a long
day and before an even longer
day tomorrow. Thank you again
for the kindness and support
you've shown our team and we
hope the favor will be returned!

Thank you! - Andies

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

**A special “THANK YOU” to our
Volunteers of the month!**

Our Volunteers of the Month for July are:

Home Communion Ministers



- Becky Bredenkamp
- Margene Dahlstedt
- Beth Forbess
- Dennis Gorr

We are so grateful for our faithful home communion ministers who lovingly carry the presence of Christ and the closeness of our church family to those who are unable to attend in person.

Thank You!

Our Volunteers of the Month for August are:

Retiring members of Church Council:

- Karen Emal
- Lee Fritson
- Bill Schmidt



We can't thank our outgoing council members enough for their multiple years of service. They have used their time and talents on many things, including the paperwork and decisions regarding our renovation. They also represented Council on several other teams. We express our appreciation to all three of these outstanding individuals for being part of our leadership team.

Thank you for being so generous with your time and talents!

EVENTS



First Lutheran's Habitat for Humanity Work Day is Saturday, August 2nd.

Please sign up to help or serve/prepare food on the board in the Narthex.



Whether you can help by building, painting, preparing food, or serving food - we need you! Please sign up in the Narthex.

Bring your backpack, music case, briefcase or anything you'd like to have blessed!

Blessing of the Backpacks

- August 9th & 10th
- All Three Services

Bring your backpack, briefcase, music case, or anything you'd like!

We'll offer prayers for everyone as we embark on a new academic year.



**Monday, August 18th
First Day of
Preschool!**

**We can't wait to plant seeds of faith into these young students.
THREE spots are still open in our PreK class.
Please share!**

6th thru 8th graders and parents - please plan to attend this important meeting!



Confirmation Orientation

**for 6th - 8th Grade Students
AND parents/guardians.**

- Wednesday, August 20th
- 6:30 pm
- Centennial Hall

EVENTS

🍁 Join Us for
Worship in the Park!

🍁
Fall is the perfect
season to come
together in God's
Beautiful Creation!

🎵 Uplifting worship
🙏 Prayer & encouragement
🌳 Surrounded by the beauty
of fall

Worship in the Park

- Sunday, August 24th | 11:00 am
- Council Members Installation
- Picnic Lunch following service
- Dryden Park - 601 E. 31st Street
- No 8:45 am service this day.
- No Sunday School this day.
(since Sunday School starts Sept. 7)



Hotdogs provided. Bring a side or dessert to share.
Bring your own table settings and chair.

Service Change

Late service returns to
11:00 am Sunday, August 24th
with Worship in The Park

Wednesday night activities return August 27th

- 5:15 pm - Praiser Bells
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock
- 6:15 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers
- 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir
- 6:30 pm - F.R.O.G.
- 6:50 pm - Confirmation Class
- 7:00 pm - FLY



Labor Day

The Church Office will be closed
Monday, September 1st for Labor Day

Sunday School Begins
Sunday, September 7th
9:50 am



YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Camp 2025

In June, Pastor Rick and Josh Sikes took ten FLC youth to Confirmation Camp at Carol Joy Holling.



Confirmation Camp riders getting ready to head off to a week of growth, faith, and fun.



Just finished small group confirmation at Confirmation Camp 2025



FLY has been busy helping with VBS and even enjoyed a movie night mid-week after VBS.

In August and September we plan to visit the observatory in Hastings, attend the local Farmers Market, make some amazing dishes from the food we purchase at the Farmers Market, and take a trip to the State Fair.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School "Road Trip - On the Go with God" was a huge success this year! We had over 66 children participate and raised over \$1030 for the Asheville, NC Mission Trip. Thank you to the MANY volunteers who helped with this year's event!



Bible Lessons



Music Time



Craft Station



Story Time



Game Time



"Thank You" to all these amazing volunteers that helped with VBS!

FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation;
Here is an update from your Church Council

By way of an introduction, the members of your Church Council are P. J. Bartels (President), Scott Darveau (Vice President), Lisa Parish (Treasurer), Deb Schauer (Secretary), Christine Fisher, Jay Kuecker, Shirley Smalley, Tyler Schwartz, Terry Volker (who is serving the remainder of Bill Schmidt's term), Pastor Rick Carlson, and Pastor Michelle Carlson.

Our office remodeling project is complete and we have made the final payment to RMV Construction.

Thanks to the Congregation's support, this project has been completed and we did not need to access our construction loan. Simply put, we do not owe any money to an outside lender. We did "borrow" money from funds we had on hand to make the final payment. The remaining pledges will be used to "repay" our internal borrowing.

The Congregation directed the Property and Management Team and the Council to explore all options for the 3206 H Ave rental property. In conjunction with Property and Management, the Council voted to establish a task force to address the various issues related to this property. The task force will be established soon and the Congregation will receive monthly updates.

Members have expressed an interest in re-energizing the groups formally known as First Friends, Lutheran Ann & Andy's, and the Golden Agers, which will provide an outlet for informal social gatherings. There are volunteers who will be working on this project. Watch for future announcements.

There has been a good response to the North Carolina Mission Trip coming up in September. Pastor Rick is working on lodging, flights, etc. and will have more information on the trip shortly.

Important Dates:

August 2 - First Lutheran day working with Habitat for Humanity

August 24 - Worship in the park and Council installation

August 27 - Wednesday night activities resume, including Feeding the Flock

September 7 - Sunday School Resumes

Yours in Christ,
P. J. Bartels
Council President



JULY WORSHIP THEMES

JULY 6, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

ISAIAH 66:10-14; PSALM 66:1-9,
GALATIANS 6:[1-6] 7-16; LUKE 10:1-11,
16, 20; 2 KINGS 5:1-14

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat...take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

JULY 13, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

DEUTERONOMY 30:9-14; PSALM 25:1-10; COLOSSIANS 1:1-14; LUKE 10:25-37, AMOS 7:7-17

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"- namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

JULY 20, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 15; COLOSSIANS 1:15-28; LUKE 10:38-42; AMOS 8:1-12

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears". God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!" – to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

JULY 27, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

GENESIS 18:20 – 32; PSALM 138; COLOSSIANS 2:6-15 [16-19]; LUKE 11:1-13; HOSEA 1:2-10

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized – to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus – is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

AUGUST WORSHIP THEMES

AUGUST 3, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

ECCELSIASTES 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; PSALM 49:1-12; COLASSIANS 3:1-11; LUKE 12:13-21

Today's tests offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

AUGUST 10, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

GENESIS 15:1-6; PSALM 33:12-22; HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16; LUKE 12:32-40

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning – to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

AUGUST 17, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

JEREMIAH 23:23-29; PSALM 82; HEBREWS 11:29-12:2; LUKE 12:49-56; ISAIAH 5:1-7; PSALM 80:1-2, 8-19

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion.

Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

AUGUST 24, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

ISAIAH 58:9b -14; PSALM 103:1-8; HEBREWS 12:18-29; LUKE 13:10-17, JEREMIAH 1:4-10; PSALM 71:1-6

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day. And the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

AUGUST 31, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

PROVERBS 25:6-7; SIRACH 10:12-18; PSALM 112; HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16; LUKE 14:1, 7-14; JEREMIAH 2:4-13; PSALM 81:1, 10-16

Inviting and inviting – that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

PreSchool

Happy Summer to All!

The month of June and July has been about cleaning, organizing and preparing for all day Pre-K this year! We look forward to both of our new classes in August! Our first letter and supply list will go out towards the end of the second week in July. We will have our Orientation Night on Thursday, August 14th, 2025. All classes will come to our 7pm time slot. We are excited to meet these new faces, show them around our classrooms and talk about so many amazing things we do here at First Lutheran Church Preschool.

The 3 & 4 year class is full with a waiting list, but we do have three openings in Pre-K!

The 3 & 4 yr class meets Monday - Thursday, 8:15am - 11:45am.

The Pre-K class meets Monday - Friday, 8:15am-3:00pm.

Ms. Marissa will be our lead teacher in the 3 year old classroom with Mrs. Kelly Shada, Ms. Deb Beerman and Mrs. Rhonda King taking turns volunteering most days to assist Marissa. It will be my fifth year teaching Pre-K and Mrs. Sonya Vetick's fourth year assisting me. I truly love working with these ladies!

Our teachers genuinely care about your child and we have lots of parents who would love to tell you about all the awesome things we do here. If you would like some phone numbers of parents to talk to please email me at amandalewis@firstlutheran Kearney.org or text me at 308-240-0872.

On July 2nd, Pastor Logan and Erin Ellis hosted a fun night for families of young children at the church for some outdoor fun from 6:30pm-7:30pm! We had two preschool families and had a blast roasting marshmallows, shooting off sparklers and playing on the playground. Mrs. Amanda and Ms. Marissa also attended and had a blast with the kids!

God's blessings,
Mrs. Amanda

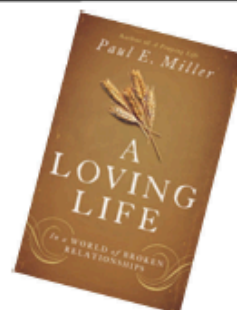




2025-2026 First Lutheran's

Women's Circle Groups

Bible Studies starting in September



Deborah Circle

5:00 pm - 3rd Monday

Co-chairs: Deb Schauer

308-233-2669

Alicia Tracey

308-234-4793

Study:

Women of the Bible Speak

Naomi Circle

7:00 pm - 4th Thursday

Chair: Judy Niemann

308-234-4332

No June or July meetings

August is Girl's Night Out

Study:

A Loving Life

Gloria Circle

12:00 pm - 3rd Thursday

Chair: Judy Workman

308-237-2781

Study:

Women of the Bible Speak

The Nebraska Women of the ELCA
has Seven Conferences.

1. Central
2. High Plains
3. Metro East
4. Midlands
5. Northeast
6. Southeast
7. Southern Prairie

First Lutheran in Kearney is in the
Southern Prairie Conference

2024-2025 Women of the ELCA Officers of the First Lutheran Congregational Unit of Women of the ELCA

President:

Linda Fowler 308-236-7265

President Elect:

Betty Heggemeyer 308-293-1167

Secretary:

Bev Vacha 308-468-6239

Treasurer:

Jo Smallcomb 308-234-3053

Circle Groups: Facilitate Bibles Studies and Host Church Women's Programs

Work Groups: Prepare and Serve Funerals and Other Events as needed

Quilting: Makes Quilts for LWR and School bags

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Knitted or Crocheted Shawls for those in need of comfort and prayers

Cards: Sent to Church Members

Fellowship and Outreach: to New Members

We are always looking for Women to participate in our Church Women's Events by: decorating, fixing food, helping to coordinate programs and of course attending events for the fellowship. You do not have to be a circle member to participate in all the activities.

Our Church Women's Events are the Christmas Brunch, Spring Event and the July night out.

Our State Women's Events are the Autumn Renewal, Winter Retreat, Spring Gathering and the NSW Biennial Convention

JUNE FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	June 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 42,385	\$ 42,385	\$ 38,808
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (57,465)	\$ (57,465)	\$ (54,265)
Total 2025-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
Facilities Budget:	June 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 3,813	\$ 3,813	4,589
Expenditures	\$ (6,336)	\$ (6,336)	\$ (1,048)
Total 2025-2026 Facilities Budget: \$28,100			

ELECTRONIC GIVING:



Please consider using VANCO Mobile Faith, as you give and donate to help us lower expenses.

You can select a one-time donation or set up 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.
- Search for "First Lutheran Church" at 3315 Ave G, Kearney.
- Create a profile.

USE OF OFFERING ENVELOPES

Thank you to all those who regularly make use of the weekly offering envelopes. It may not be possible to keep an accurate recording of your contributions if you do not use your envelopes. If you choose to contribute by check 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 may not be reflected on your contribution statement.

Contributions to the Ministry Budget and Facilities Budget can be combined in one check.

If you are not receiving offering envelopes and would like some, please contact Stacy in the church office. Thank you for your help!

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

Church Office office@firstlutheranearney.org

PASTORS:

Pastor Rick Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

rcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

mcarlson@firstlutheranearney.org

STAFF:

Kandy Bacon

Administrative Assistant

kbacon@firstlutheranearney.org

Kathy Benne

Director of Communications and Events

kbenne@firstlutheranearney.org

Pastor Logan Ellis

Director of Engagement: Youth, Congregation and Community

lellis@firstlutheranearney.org

Amanda Lewis

Lead Teacher for the Preschool

amandalewis@firstlutheranearney.org

Jen Puls

Records Management

JPuls@region3.net

Natalie Radcliffe

Music Coordinator

natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org

Sarah Schweitzer

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

Volunteers@firstlutheranearney.org

Stacy Seim

Bookkeeper

sseim@firstlutheranearney.org

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President

PJ Bartels

Vice President

Scott Darveau

Treasurer

Lisa Parish

Secretary

Deb Schauer

Members:

Christine Fisher

Jay Kuecker

Tyler Schwartz

Shirley Smalley

Terry Volker

Pastor Michelle

Pastor Rick



PRESIDENT:

LINDA FOWLER

VICE PRESIDENT:

BETTY HEGGEMEYER

SECRETARY:

BEV VACHA

TREASURER:

JO SMALLCOMB

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the calendar on our website for updates.

Laying on of Hands - First and Third weekends of each month

July 2025 Calendar

Sat/Sun, July 26, 27
Sat. July 26
Sun. July 27

Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 10:30 am
FLY Farmer's Market Activity 10-2pm.
Hymns of Faith - between services. Fellowship Hall

August 2025 Calendar

Sat. August 2
Sat/Sun, August 2, 3

Habitat for Humanity 9am to 2pm
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 10:30 am
Worship at Brookstone Gardens at 2:00 p.m.

August 8-10

Women's ELCA Saved to Serve "Mosaic" at Beatrice

Sat/Sun, August 9, 10

Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 10:30 am
Blessing of the Backpacks during all services

Sat/Sun, August 16, 17
Mon. August 18
Wed. August 20
Fri. August 22
Sat. August 23
Sun. August 24

Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 10:30 am
First day of Preschool
Confirmation Orientation at 6:30pm in Centennial Hall
FLY at the Nebraska State Fair
Worship Sat. 6:00 pm
Worship Sun. 11:00 am - **Worship in the Park**
Dryden Park: 601 E. 31st
Installation of Church Council | Church picnic
Wednesday night activities resume
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am

Wed. August 27
Sat/Sun, August 30, 31

September Upcoming Events:

Mon. Sept 1
Sat/Sun, September 6, 7
Sun. September 7
Sat/Sun, September 13, 14
Sun. September 14
Sat/Sun, September 20, 21
Sun. September 21
Sat/Sun, September 27, 28

Labor Day | Church Office closed | No preschool
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
9:50 am Sunday School resumes
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
God's Work, Our Hands
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Membership Class | 10:00am
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am

Wednesday night activities return August 27th



- 5:15 pm - Praise Bells
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock
- 6:15 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers
- 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir
- 6:30 pm - F.R.O.G.
- 6:50 pm - Confirmation Class
- 7:00 pm - FLY

Do you want to become a First Lutheran Church member or need to re-instate your membership?

★ Join Our Membership Class! ★



- Sunday, September 21st
- 10:00 am
- Fellowship Hall

**There will be three classes
and a reception.**

Contact the church office for details:
office@firstlutheran Kearney.org 308.237.5544

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.**