

THE SEPTEMBER MESSENGER

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

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday, September 14

12noon - Lunch at First Lutheran
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Work at the sites: Jubilee Center,
SAFE Center, First Lutheran Church

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

If you need a t-shirt, please email: Volunteers@firstlutheran Kearney.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...



- Justin and Adriane Madsen and family on the death of Justin's father, Richard Madsen.
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Baptism of Leo Peter Hanson, Grandson of Pam and Ralph Hanson.

A MESSAGE FROM KEITH POWELL, OUR SEMINARIAN - "YEAR TWO"



Greetings First Lutheran,

I want to thank you for your continued support and prayers while I have been attending seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. I have been attending seminary classes as a collaborative learner. Meaning that I take classes full time online while also serving at a teaching congregation. I continue to serve and learn at Zion Lutheran Church in Albion, Nebraska.

It is hard to believe that I am officially halfway finished with seminary and getting ready to start my third year at Wartburg Theological Seminary. This first half of seminary seems to have flown by. Looking back on this past year, so much has happened. This past fall I was endorsed by the Nebraska Synod Candidacy Committee which allowed me to officially start my internship hours. I began my internship at Zion in June 2025 and will hopefully complete my internship in December 2026.

This past year I studied Hebrew Bible which is where we study the Old Testament. The first semester of Hebrew Bible is focused on the Pentateuch, the first five books of the bible, the second semester is the rest of the Old Testament. I also studied Lutheran Confessions, where we focused on The Book of Concord. I also took a leadership class and a class focusing on what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. I also completed my preaching class which has helped me with preparing my sermons and helping me be more comfortable with public speaking.

This past year as part of my fieldwork, I also had the opportunity to volunteer at a local thrift store in Albion called Mission Possible Store. Mission Possible Store is a thrift store that is managed by the local Methodist Church but is completely ran by volunteers from the area churches. All the proceeds that are earned from the sales are given back to the churches to help with community programs. I have learned a lot this past year through my classes and serving alongside my collaborative learning site.

The greatest highlight from this past year was the opportunity to travel abroad with my classmates in January to follow the Apostle Paul through Greece and Turkey. We first visited the traditional baptismal place of Lydia. The story of Lydia's baptism is found in Acts 16: 9-15. Lydia was the first person to be baptized in Macedonia, modern day Europe.

“YEAR TWO” FROM KEITH POWELL, CONT'D.

The next city we visited was the city of Philippi. Paul and Silas time in Philippi is found in Acts 16:16-40. The Letter of Paul to the Philippians were addressed to Christian converts in Philippi whom he had visited in his second and third missionary journeys. We also visited Thessaloniki, Paul's visit to Thessaloniki is read about in Acts 17:1-19 and the letters that Paul wrote are recorded in the bible as First and Second Thessalonians. We then visited the city of Athens; the Apostle Paul's time is recorded in Acts 17:16-33. The final city in Greece that we visited before heading to Türkiye was Corinth. The Apostle Paul's time in Corinth is written about in Acts 18:1-17. Paul spent some time in the city of Corinth. The letters that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth make up the books 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

In Türkiye we visited the Ephesus. Ephesus is an ancient coastal city located in present day Selcuk in Izmir Province, Türkiye. Ephesus was a recipient city of one of the Pauline epistles also known as the Letters of Paul and one of the seven churches of Asia addressed in the Book of Revelation. The letters that Paul wrote to Ephesus are found in the book of Ephesians. While in Izmir we had the opportunity to tour the ancient city of Ephesus along with the ruins of The Basilica of St. John, where John the Apostle was said to have been buried. We also visited the House of the Virgin Mary, a legend is that Mary, the mother of Jesus, may have spent the last years of her life in Ephesus. The Apostle's time in Ephesus is recorded in Acts 19. The final city we visited on our trip was Istanbul. In Istanbul Topkapi Palace Museum which contains alleged religious artifacts such as the staff of Moses, John the Baptist arm, and David's sword. We also visited the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, and the Hagia Irene. The Hagia Irene is where the First Council of Constantinople was held, which confirmed and refined the Nicene Creed. Of course we had to finish our trip off with a visit to the Grand Bazaar. The Grand Bazaar is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops. Being able to follow Paul's journey through Greece and Türkiye was a wonderful experience. I am incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the trip.

As Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.” As you never know where the Lord may lead you. Trusting in Lord has given me the opportunity to continue my journey in seminary, and I know it will get me all the way through to the end. As I began year three, I look forward to where God is leading me. I would like to thank the members of First Lutheran for their continued support and prayers as I move forward in seminary and towards roster ministry in the ELCA. There are truly no words I can say or write to show how much your continued support and prayers mean to me.

Thank you and God Bless First Lutheran,
Vicar Keith Powell

MISSION OUTREACH



Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity Update

In **House 101**, painting is complete, the kitchen floor is in, and during the week of July 26, weekday volunteers began installing the beautiful cupboards donated by Meade Lumber Company. Outdoors, crews laid more sidewalks and started fencing.

Saturday brought even more progress—sidewalk forms were removed and stored for **House 103**, and volunteers leveled soil in preparation for future sod once the weather cools. Work also continued on fencing between homes and general yard cleanup.

Over in **House 102**, skilled painters brought Tyson & Haylee's home to life with fresh color. Next on the list: flooring, followed by cupboard installation.

As for House 103, we're eager to begin but are awaiting finalization of property details in our newest subdivision with the city. We now anticipate starting construction in early September.



MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

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



- *Size 5 & 6 Diapers*
- *Baby Wipes*



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.



ADULT MINISTRY

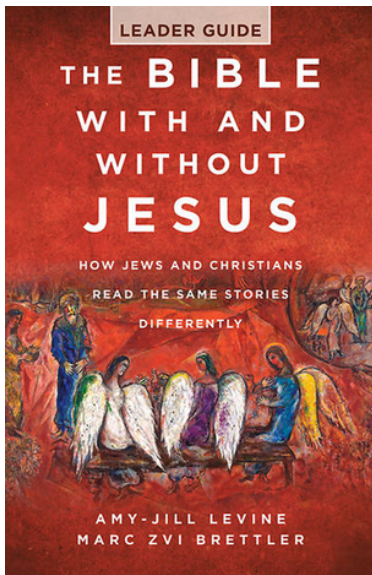


Stephen Ministry

Our new office addition has given us space to start our Stephen Ministry Program! Our first class will begin soon, and we look forward to having this great resource available for our church!

Stephen Ministry is a program to equip and develop skills of listening for people to walk with others in times of need.

If you are interested in learning more about the ministry or classes, contact Pastor Logan.



Our weekly Adult Bible Study occurs Wednesdays, September 24th – October 29th. 10:30 am Fellowship Hall

The Solid Rock Bookstore can order the “Participant Books” for you, or you can order them online.

Coming in November: Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick
Sunday, November 9
9:50 – 10:50am
Prophets Road One
Stay tuned for more information!

ADULT MINISTRIES



Go Out and Lead: Lay Leadership Gathering
Sunday, October 19, 2025 | 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Hybrid Event: In person at the Holiday Inn, Kearney or Online via Zoom
God calls and equips all of us to lead in different ways. Join lay leaders from across the Nebraska Synod for an afternoon of encouragement, connection, and learning.

Rev. Dr. Terri Elton from Luther Seminary will lead us in exploring how we respond to God's call—especially when that call invites us to pivot.

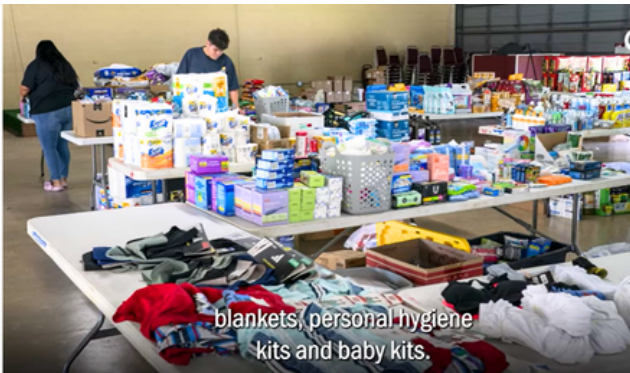
This gathering is for all lay leaders: church staff, council members, committee members, and active congregation members.

We hope you'll join us!

NOTE: This event is an extension of our Fall Leadership Gathering (for Rostered Leaders)

Register at: NebraskaSynod.com
News & Events Tab

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

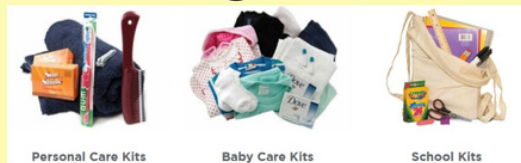


In the early hours of July 4, heavy rains caused the Guadalupe River in central Texas to rise by 25 feet in minutes. As a result, catastrophic flash flooding swept through the Texas hill country, devastating everything in its path.

In these early days, your compassion is providing Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits as well as distributing emergency food, water, tarps, clean up kits, hygiene supplies and clothing to people whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

Thanks to your quick compassion, hundreds of families affected by the recent flooding in Texas had emergency supplies in their hands within 12 hours.

Items for Lutheran World Relief Kits are being collected now.



Please see the list of items needed on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

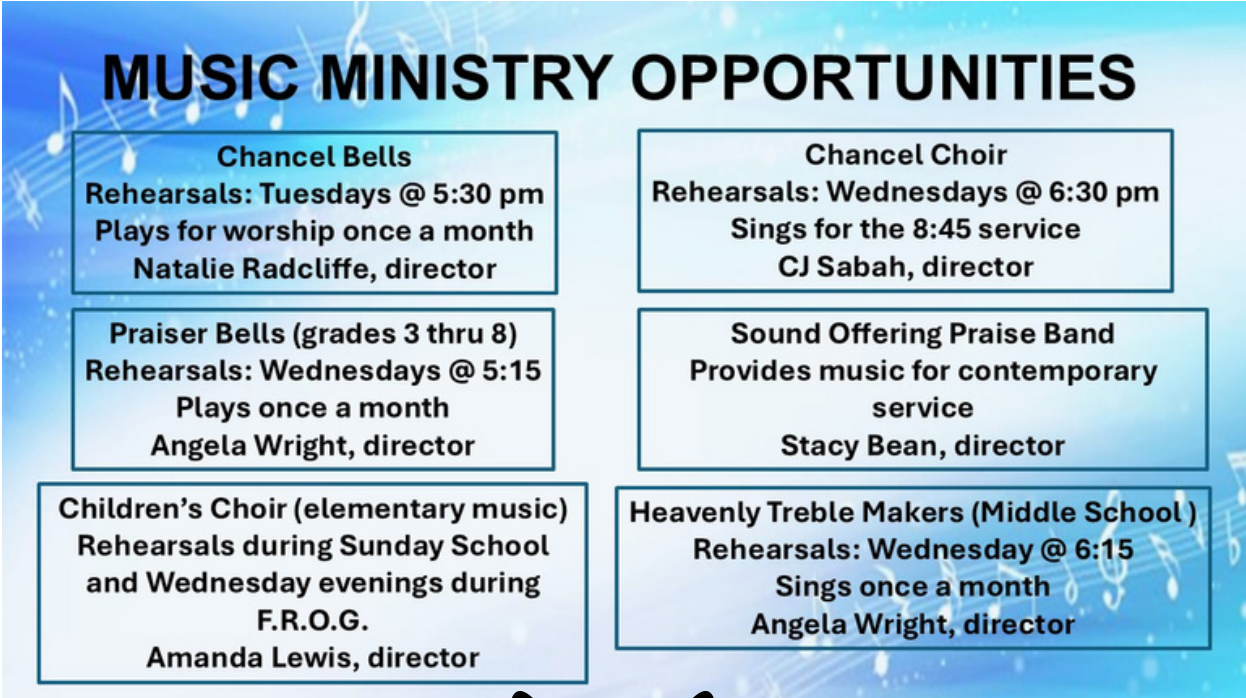
On September 14, our Sunday School students will help pack school bags and make personal care kits during the “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday. This will help them know that even here in Kearney, Nebraska they can help people from other parts of the world and even here in the United States after a natural disaster.

What a great way to teach them to be the hands and feet of Christ and put their faith in action.

To be able to do this there is a wish list in the narthex. Please consider grabbing a tag off of the board and purchasing the items on your tag. You can place your items in the box under the board or in the cafe area.

We have a goal of sending 100 school kits, 50 personal care kits and 30 baby care kits. Even if we don’t collect everything by September 14th, we will continue to take items until the packing day in November.

MUSIC MINISTRY



MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Chancel Bells Rehearsals: Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm Plays for worship once a month Natalie Radcliffe, director	Chancel Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm Sings for the 8:45 service CJ Sabah, director
Praiser Bells (grades 3 thru 8) Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 5:15 Plays once a month Angela Wright, director	Sound Offering Praise Band Provides music for contemporary service Stacy Bean, director
Children's Choir (elementary music) Rehearsals during Sunday School and Wednesday evenings during F.R.O.G. Amanda Lewis, director	Heavenly Treble Makers (Middle School) Rehearsals: Wednesday @ 6:15 Sings once a month Angela Wright, director

Chancel Choir is Looking for Singers for the New Season

Join us to Become Part of an Interesting and Fun Group!



Experience A Way To Worship And Praise Within Our Church Family.

We sing at the 8:45am service, but you don't need to sing every Sunday.

Contact CJ Sabah for details

1. You don't need to sing every Sunday.
2. You can still sit with your family.
3. You don't need to be a "rock star" singer or reader of music. This is definitely a choir where all are greeted with open arms and no judgement.
4. Come experience the joy of worship with our church family.
5. It is a blessing that we have a choir in our congregation. Come be a part of something fun, interesting, and a way to use your gifts to serve.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

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

**Our Volunteers of the Month for September are:
Vacation Bible School Volunteers**



*Your service planted seeds of faith in over sixty-five youth!
Thank you for shining His light!*

**Volunteer Opportunities:
Sign up weekly or once a month!**

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 76fisher@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.

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer, but only have one extra hour a week?

We need you!

The preschool needs someone to clean the PreK Classroom and Restroom anytime after Friday - 3pm and before Monday - 8am



Please contact the Church Office or Amanda Lewis for details.

Wednesday Night F.R.O.G. Leaders Needed!

It's EASY as PIE!



- We have all the curriculum
 - No prep needed!
- Short & Sweet commitment
 - Just show up and love on our youth!
- Make a difference in a child's life
 - and have fun doing it!
- Wednesdays 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm

Please email Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org

Assisting Ministers are needed!



You can serve once a month, or be a substitute.

Please contact Sarah Schweitzer

Email: Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org

EVENTS



Reminder:
Our second
Sunday service
has returned to
11:00 am

Wednesday night activities have returned!

Wednesday night activities have resumed!

- 5:15 pm - Praiser Bells
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock
- 6:15 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers
- 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm F.R.O.G.
- 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir
- 6:50 pm - 7:55 pm Confirmation Class
- 7:00 pm - FLY*

*check emails for updates



Register for FROG &
Confirmation Class
ON OUR WEBSITE



Join us September 6th & 7th!

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



**REGISTER
NOW!**
on our website



Teacher Installation

September 6 & 7
at all services.



- ALL Teachers:**
- Sunday School
 - F.R.O.G.
 - Preschool

TEACHING IS A
WORK OF HEART

Preschool Open House

Sunday, September 7
9:50am - 10:45 am



Stop in to see our brand new Prep-Kitchen
and check out our fun classrooms!

EVENTS



Please pray for those serving at the Asheville, NC Mission Trip September 14 - 20.

“God’s Work, Our Hands” is Sunday, September 14th. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. If you need a t-shirt, please email Sarah Schweitzer: volunteers@firstlutherankearney.org

**God's Work Our Hands
T-Shirts**
On sale for a freewill donation



If interested contact the church office

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday, September 14

12noon - Lunch at First Lutheran
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Work at the sites: Jubilee Center,
SAFE Center, First Lutheran Church

Women's ELCA Meeting Election of Officers & Potluck

- Monday
- September 15th
- 6:30 pm
- Fellowship Hall



ALL women at First Lutheran Church are welcome to attend!

Please RSVP by Sept. 11 to Kandy at 237-5544

ALL women are invited
to the WELCA Potluck
Fall Meeting!

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

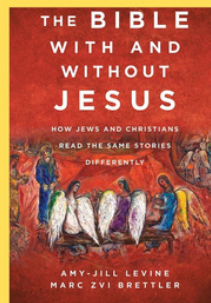
★ Join Our Membership Class! ★



- Sundays, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 & Oct. 12
- 10:00 am
- Fellowship Hall

There will be three classes and then a reception for everyone to meet the new members October 12.

Contact the church office for details or to RSVP:
office@firstlutherankearney.org 308.237.5544



Adult Bible Study

The next Adult Bible Study will meet:
**Wednesdays,
September 24 - October 29
at 10:30 am
In Fellowship Hall**

You can order the book online,
or at the Solid Rock Bookstore.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Hello First Lutheran Family!

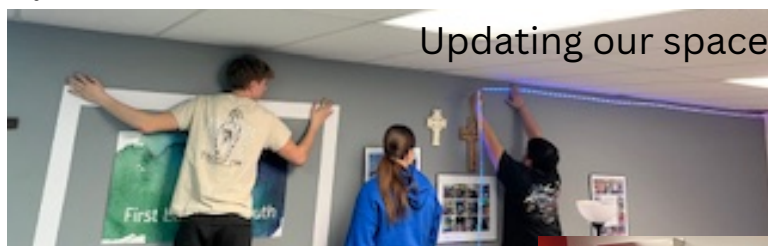
This is Pastor Logan giving you a heads up of what to expect with FLY this year. We have many events on our calendar!

Some favorites such as the Chili Cook Off, the Silent Auction, and Cantata Brunch will be returning. Our Chili Cook Off Honor Table this year will be loaded with special guests! We have two Nebraska state senators, a representative from Runza, and the superintendent of Kearney Public Schools! They are already looking forward to the sweet fellowship and treats. Last year we had standing room only, and we look forward to do the same this October!

We will partner with our Christmas Cantata program to provide a great breakfast for people to enjoy before or after the program. There will be many great items available, and we appreciate the generosity of the congregation to help our mission efforts!

A new event to look forward to is a monthly Crossroad Conversation. We will have guests from the same denomination, but different branches for a free flowing conversation about the denomination, clearing up misunderstandings, and dreaming what the church could be.

Our September event looks to be exciting as we will have a guest from the Bishop office, a guest from the Missouri Synod denomination, and a guest from the Wisconsin Synod denomination! It will be a great opportunity to learn and engage with people who think differently from ourselves.



Updating our space



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Wednesday night activities have resumed!

- 5:15 pm - Praiser Bells
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock
- 6:15 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers
- 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm F.R.O.G.
- 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir
- 6:50 pm - 7:55 pm Confirmation Class
- 7:00 pm - FLY*

*check emails for updates



Register for FROG & Confirmation Class
ON OUR WEBSITE

Youth Activities Have Resumed!
Please register on our website under the tab "Christian Education"

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



REGISTER NOW!
on our website

Second Grade Bibles will be presented at the 8:45 am Service
Sunday, October 5th

Please contact the church office if you have not signed up your second grader.

Instructional class October 5 at 9:50 am for second graders and their parents in Fellowship Hall



Pastor Michelle holds a special instructional meeting for the second graders and their parents. This helps the children learn how to use their bibles. Please plan to attend!

October 5
9:50am
Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU, Confirmation Students and Families, for pulling weeds in the Pre-School playground! It looks great!



FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation;

Here is an update from your Church Council

The Mission Trip to Asheville, North Carolina has had a very good response with 19 people committing to this relief effort. Pastors Rick and Michelle have booked the flights and have arranged for lodging and transportation while in Asheville. The Council has approved the use of memorial money from Mary Wright to help defray the costs of the Mission Trip. A post Mission Trip forum is being planned to present the trip results to the Congregation.

The Rental House Task Force met on July 31st to start identifying the issues and possible courses of action regarding this property. A great deal of progress was made and information is being gathered regarding this property.

Fall activities begin on August 27th with Feeding the Flock. Sunday School resumes on September 7th.

Important Dates:

August 27th—Wednesday night activities resume, including Feeding the Flock
September 7th—Sunday School resumes
September 14th—God's Work Our Hands resume
September 14th—20th—Asheville, North Carolina Mission Trip
September 21st—New member classes begin

Yours in Christ,

P. J. Bartels
Council President

On behalf of Scott Darveau (VP), Deb Schauer (Secretary), Lisa Parish (Treasurer), Christine Fisher, Jay Kuecker, Shirley Smalley, Tyler Schwartz, Terry Volker, Pastor Rick Carlson and Pastor Michelle Carlson



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 TIME AFTER PENTECOST

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20; PSALM 1;
PHILEMON 1-21; LUKE 14:25-33;
JEREMIAH 18:1-11

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company of forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"- to choose life in God as our own.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 TIME AFTER PENTECOST

EXODUS 32:7-14; PSALM 51:1-10; 1
TIMOTHY 1:12-17; LUKE 15:1-10,
JEREMIAH 4:11-12, 22-28

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the write of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 TIME AFTER PENTECOST

AMOS 8:4-7; PSALM 113; 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7; LUKE 16:1-13; JEREMIAH 8:18 -9:1, PSALM 79:1-9

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus himself human, ... gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing -we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 TIME AFTER PENTECOST

AMOS 6:1a, 4-7; 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19; LUKE 16:9-31; JEREMIAH 32:1-3a, 6-15; PSALM 91:1-6, 14-16

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold - who comes to us risen from the dead - who can free us from the death grip of greed.



Whoever
is faithful in
a very little
is faithful
also in much

LUKE 16:10

PreSchool

Hello from the 3-and 4-year-old class!

Our first couple of weeks of school have been so much fun! We learned each other's names, explored our classroom, learned about our schedule and the rules that we follow in our classroom! Next, we learned about how God makes each and every one of us special and unique in our own way! We also got to play lots of games and spend time outside to soak up the last of this summer weather before it turns to fall! Later on, this month, the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department is coming for a visit, and we will get to look inside the fire truck and learn all about fire safety. We are also looking forward to our Class Picture Day on September 30th! We also have a bunch of wonderful volunteers helping in our classroom and their names are Kelly Shada, Deb Beerman, Linda Peterson, and Sonya McLeod.

God's Blessings,
Ms. Marissa, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Linda, Mrs. Deb, and Mrs. Sonya



PreSchool

Hello First Lutheran Church!

We have been busy cleaning rooms and getting materials ready for our Orientation Night. We are so blessed to have another year of amazing staff this year! It is going to be an awesome year with wonderful families!

We have Ms. Marissa Wright as our Lead teacher in the 3 year old class. She started last year assisting and now is going to do a great job leading!

Our other new staff member, is Emily Bacon. She is our first time cook for the Pre-K classroom and brings a lot of passion for cooking. She will be making bread and lots of homemade cooking. Those kiddos will be eating healthy snacks and lunches.

Lastly, Sonya Vetick has been my assistant for 3 years and will remain part time for now. She will be helping in both classrooms from 9:30-1:30. Sonya does an outstanding job thinking ahead and is so organized. Again, we are truly blessed with all these people that care about kids!

Orientation night was Thursday, Aug. 14th. Both classes had their meeting and got to know the facility at 7pm. We were very excited to see those faces and get to know everyone!

The 3 year class and Pre-K class had their first day of school on August 18th. Our goal last August, was to start an all day Pre-K, and we met that goal. Many thanks to the church staff and preschool board for their help and support!

On Sunday, Sept. 7th in between services, we are having an open house for the congregation to come see our rooms, new kitchen prep room, and new bathroom. Many board members, Marissa and I will be there to answer any questions you might have.

We started the school year by getting to know each other, schedule, room and rules. We learned each other's names, sang new songs, played with toys, played outside, and learned what it looks and sounds like to listen to a teacher or student. Each week will be getting our hands dirty and exploring too! Pre-K is having lots of extra new fun with having afternoons to rest and grow with experiments, crafts, games and so much more!

The second week, we learned the letter A and lots about apples. We had a blast tasting, touching, smelling and even painting with apples. We have so much to share next month!

Have a blessed September!

Mrs. Amanda Lewis & Mrs. Sonya Vetick



Women of the ELCA



Gloria Circle

12:00 pm - 3rd Thursday

Chair: Judy Workman

308-237-2781

Study:

Women of the Bible Speak

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

Women's ELCA Meeting Election of Officers & Potluck

- Monday
- September 15th
- 6:30 pm
- Fellowship Hall



**ALL women at First Lutheran Church are
welcome to attend!**

Please RSVP by Sept. 11 to Kandy at 237-5544

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 NSWOBiennial Convention

National Women's Event is the Triennial Gathering. Coming July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, IA

JULY FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	July 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 54,368	\$ 96,752	\$ 79,493
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (70,005)	\$(127,470)	\$(117,734)
Total 2025-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
Facilities Budget:	July 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 5,160	\$ 8,973	8,518
Expenditures	\$ (1,557)	\$ (7,892)	\$ (1,910)
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

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Director of Communications and Events

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Pastor Logan Ellis

Director of Engagement: Youth, Congregation and Community

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Amanda Lewis

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Jen Puls

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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.

September Upcoming Events:

Mon. Sept 1	Labor Day Church Office closed No preschool
Sat/Sun, September 6, 7	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am Laying on of Hands at all services Praying over Mission Trip volunteers at all services Teacher Installation during all services Brookestone Gardens Worship service at 2:00 pm 9:50 am Sunday School resumes
Sun. September 7	
Sat/Sun, September 13, 14	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Sun. September 14	6:30am - Mission Trip departure to North Carolina. God's Work, Our Hands: 12noon Lunch / 1-3 work at sites
Sat/Sun, September 20, 21	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Sun. September 21	Membership Class 10:00am
Sat/Sun, September 27, 28	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Sun, September 28	Membership Class 10:00am

October Upcoming Events:

Sat/Sun, October 4/5	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am Laying on of Hands at all services Sunday, 8:45 am Service - 2 nd Grade Bibles Distributed Sunday, 10:00 am - Membership Class Sunday, 12:30 pm - Animal Blessings Brookestone Gardens Worship service at 2:00 pm
Sat/Sun, October 11/12	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am Membership Reception 10:00am
Wed/October 15	FLY Chili Cookoff (Confirmation class will occur this evening)
Sat/Sun, October 18/19	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am Laying on of Hands at all services 9:50 am - Adult Forum - North Carolina Mission Trip
Sat/Sun, October 25/26	Worship Sat. 6 pm Reformation Sunday Worship 11:00 am 12:15 pm Church Luncheon
Sun, October 26	1:00 pm - Trunk or Treat

Wednesday night activities have resumed!

- 5:15 pm - Praiser Bells
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock
- 6:15 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers
- 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm F.R.O.G.
- 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir
- 6:50 pm - 7:55 pm Confirmation Class
- 7:00 pm - FLY*

*check emails for updates



Register for FROG & Confirmation Class
ON OUR WEBSITE

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.**