

THE OCTOBER MESSENGER

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

Asheville, NC Mission Trip

Hello First Lutheran Family!

Our Mission Trip to Asheville, North Carolina was a truly special experience. After months of preparation, 17 of us flew over 1,500 miles (and one couple bravely drove!) to serve alongside local organizations and families impacted by Hurricane Helene.



Once there, we split into teams—sorting donations at the “I AM” shelter, painting and installing drywall, insulating and demoing decks, and even painting a shed that will bless a family searching for housing. Beyond the work, we listened to stories of resilience and witnessed the powerful efforts of community members still serving tirelessly since the storm.

The road to recovery is long—an estimated 15 years, much like Katrina—but we are grateful to have played a small part and to begin what we hope will be an ongoing relationship with this community. Along the way, our team bonded through meals, card games, and shared service, reminding us how much we can do together.

On October 19th, we’ll host a forum to share our stories and dream about what the future holds for our church’s outreach in North Carolina. Thank you for your prayers and support—we truly felt them with us every step of the way!

Our daily activities can be viewed on the First Lutheran Church website.



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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...



- Tyler and Annette Schwartz on the death of Annette's Aunt, Pamela Dunn.
- Tony & Jazzmyn Martin and family on the death of Tony's Uncle, Wallace Martin.
- The friends and family of Kent Magnuson and Dr. Mark Meyer on their deaths.
- Randy Bienhoff on the death of his brother, Roger Bienhoff.
- Sam Ovalle, Shelley Kilby and Daniel on the death of Sam's father, Fred Ovalle.
- Carla Fruhling's family and friends on her death.

NEBRASKA SYNOD AT THE 2025 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY: BUSINESS AND SPIRIT INTERTWINED



From July 28–August 2, twenty-one Nebraska Synod voting members joined more than 900 others in Phoenix, AZ, for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly under the theme “For the Life of the World.”

Together, they participated in the work of the church—electing leaders, considering social statements, debating memorials, and pausing often for prayer and worship.

Historic Elections and Assembly Actions

The Assembly elected new leaders for the wider church. The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, was elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. The Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills was elected Secretary of the ELCA. Nebraska Synod rejoiced when PMA Matt Schur of Southwood Lutheran Church, Lincoln, was elected to a six-year term on the ELCA Church Council.

Significant actions of the Assembly included:

- Adoption of a new social statement, Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All.
- Approval of editorial updates to Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009), with a full reconsideration process set to begin this fall.
- Reception of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church’s final report, which shaped several constitutional amendments.
- Passage of memorials on issues including Palestinian rights, remembrance of Indian Boarding Schools, and accountability in addressing racism.
- Affirmation of a goal that youth and young adults make up 20% of churchwide councils, committees, and task forces.



Worship and prayer grounded every step of the work. Voting members paused to pray before votes and in the midst of debate. Highlights included preaching from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop-elect Imad Mousa Dawood Haddad (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land), and Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie (National Council of Churches). A candlelight vigil for refugees and immigrants, and a powwow led by Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations staff, reminded participants of the church’s broad call to justice and community.

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

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



Women's Feminine Hygiene Products

Please set items on the sharing shelf in the narthex.



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

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

Fried Green TOMATOES



FREE!

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 • The World Theatre
 • Doors open at 6 PM | >>> Movie at 7 PM
 • Free admission
 • Monetary & paper good donations accepted



Movie Night Alert!

Grab your friends, your favorite cozy sweater, and maybe a box of tissues, because Fried Green Tomatoes is coming to The World Theatre on October 9th! 🎁 Doors open: 6 PM 🎬 Movie starts: 7 PM

❖ Cost: FREE (just bring paper products or a donation to support survivors at The S.A.F.E. Center!)

Come for the movie, and help us make a difference for survivors in our community.

Why: Because everyone deserves safety, hope, and a fresh start.

Presented by:

Cottonwood
VETERINARY CLINIC, P.C.

ON
SALE
NOW!

Comfort & Joy Raffle

This holiday season — *let your heart be light*

PRIZE INCLUDES:

\$500 Visa Gift Card for Christmas Shopping
 U Med Spa \$150 Gift Card
 Cellar Sports Bar and Grill \$100 Gift Card
 Baristas \$50 Gift Card for Warm Drinks
 Ktown Cakery Holiday Cookie Tray
 10 World Theatre Movie Passes
 And More!

Raffle Ticket Price: \$20
 Only 250 Available
 Purchase Online Only



Purchase your tickets at:
<https://safecenter.ejoinme.org/comfortandjoy>



Benefiting
S.A.F.E.Center
 Empower. Support. Educate.

MISSION OUTREACH



**Weekly Volunteers are
needed at
Habitat for Humanity**

**First Lutheran Church members are
invited to help Heather Weber,
a First Lutheran Church member,
complete her house before Christmas!**

Contact Beth Forbess if you have any questions.

“My name is Silvia Munoz. I work in a cleaning department. I love to cook and also love to go to the park with my family. My daughter, Libni, is 19 years old. My son Yosvany is 14, and my other son, Liam is 7 years old. We live in a small apartment, so for that reason we feel the need to have more space for the kids.

We have also heard great things about Habitat for Humanity. It is a great program.

To be honest, the most exciting thing about this is that we are a part of the building group for this season and know that soon we will be living in our own house.

First of all, we thank God for making it possible to meet these kinds of people in our life. And of course, we want to thank with all our heart the people that make this possible. You all work hard and have great dedication. From our family, thank you to all who make this possible for us. God bless you all.”

We have all houses underway and the infrastructure for the new plot of land is going to begin and we will have updates around that in the upcoming months.



MISSION OUTREACH

First Lutheran Church served areas in Kearney, NE as part of ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" day across America. Thank you everyone for volunteering your time!



Before After



STEWARDSHIP

The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is Embracing the Light. Our church has been blessed and challenged by God throughout our history. We want to highlight moments where we were particularly challenged to Embrace the Light that God was shining in our community. This guiding light led us to change language, location, and even our name! We hope this campaign to be a time of celebration for these moments of trust, and to look ahead and dream where God is calling us next. We plan to have opportunities of input from you and our leadership teams to discover where God's Light is shining, and how we can embrace it!

We will spend the rest of September highlighting the physical moves and growth of the church. In October we plan to highlight particular ministries that have extended beyond our community's walls. During this month we also plan to have surveys available (both digital and physical) for your input and discernment. Through these, we want to see where God is speaking to our congregation, and new ways that we can Embrace the Light. We will share the results in November as we conclude our campaign. We are looking forward to walking this path together Embracing the Light God has shined on us!

---- The Stewardship Team

★ Embracing the Light through New Beginnings ★

Follow the "Embracing the Light" series on the First Lutheran Church Facebook page. From the very start, our people grew and changed alongside our church building. We began with fewer than 40 determined Swedish Christians who felt called to the Kearney community.

Even while facing debt, they adopted a bold resolution: to reach beyond their own cultural group and embrace others with the love of Christ. This was one of the first ways we began Embracing the Light together.

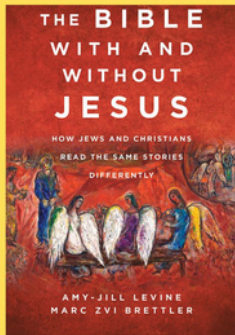


Confirmation Class, May 5, 1901
 First Row: Ida Anderson, Opal Strand, Pastor C.O. Lund, Ruth Thermanson, Alma Johnson, Ruby Thermason
 Back Row: William Rydlund, Jennie Anderson, Beda Belfrage, Frances Fox, Albert Johnson, Ella Johnson, Lydia Wetterberg, Amanda Rose, Eda Johnson, Hans Johnson, Rose Peterson, Pearl Hultman, Eric Nelson, Hulda Johnson



CHURCH FATHERS 1884

ADULT MINISTRY



**An Adult Bible Study
meets Wednesdays,
now through -
October 29
at 10:30 am
In Fellowship Hall.
Join them anytime!**

✨ Looking to grow deeper in your faith and connect with others? Join us for Adult Bible Study! It's a welcoming space to dig into God's Word, ask questions, and encourage one another as we walk through life together. We'd love for you to come be a part of the conversation!



LAY LEADERSHIP GATHERING

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.

Register online at: <https://nebraskasynod.org>

Ladies, you're invited! Join us each month for Grace Bible Study—a time to grow in God's Word, share in fellowship, and encourage one another in faith. Come as you are, bring a friend, and be refreshed in His grace!

Grace Bible Study



Meets the 2nd Monday of
each month
in Classroom 17 - 7:00 pm

- Group Led
- Informal
- All women are welcome!
- Inspiring materials chosen by members

Join us anytime!

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

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



Fall Children's Choir Dates & Times

- Oct. 19th - 11am service - Amanda will call you forward when it is time.
- Nov. 16th - 11am service - Amanda will call you forward when it is time.
- Dec. 20th - 6pm & Dec. 21st - 8:45am. We will have a party after the 8:45 am service in Fellowship Hall and then go sing a few songs at the very beginning of the 11:00 am service. Then you may go home or stay for the service. Please arrive 15 minutes early before each service to practice songs and get lined up in the music room, which is Room 9.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

An article from “The Branch Summer 2025” NLOM Magazine.



Called to Camp: One Confirmation Guide's Unforgettable Week

By Dani Hatfield, Director of Marketing



Cole Banzhaf, Drew Nielsen, Madden Dutcher, Ethan Johannesen, Bentley Martin,
Josh Sikes, Teagan Schweitzer, Maddie Sikes

YOUTH MINISTRY

When Josh Sikes pulled into Carol Joy Holling Camp for the very first time, he wasn't quite sure what to expect.

"I've been around a lot of camps," he said with a smile. "...but I hadn't been here before. As soon as I saw the facilities, I thought, 'Wow. This is something special.'"

Josh, a longtime volunteer and now professional with Scouting America, is no stranger to the outdoors. With more than 20 years of experience guiding youth through formative, faith-filled adventures, he knows the power of a good mud hike and a well-timed Bible study. So, when his church needed someone to step in and bring a group of confirmands to camp, Josh was all in.

"I could've just stayed until the pastor arrived and then gone home," he said. "But I figured, why not stay the week? I wanted to be here."

Josh spent the week with a group of eighth graders—one of them being his own daughter—experiencing everything from high ropes to horseback rides, snow cones to pool time. But what stood out most wasn't just the programming. It was the transformation he witnessed in the campers.

"These kids... they grow fast. And this is such a small window to make an impact," Josh said. "They're so impressionable at this age. If we don't do it now, when will we?"

He noticed how Summer Ministry Team members engaged campers with energy and grace. He watched campers laugh, pray, reflect, and grow in their faith—all in just a few short days.

"I'm not convinced you need to be ordained to make an impact," he said. "In fact, sometimes a caring adult who's simply present can connect in ways others can't. You just have to show up and be real."

Josh even found himself the target of some classic middle school charm.

"The boys flattered me into setting the table with them one day," he said, laughing. "It wasn't about the task—it was about connection. That's what camp is all about."



"I've had these kids in confirmation for years, and getting to walk alongside them this week, seeing their growth... it was powerful..."

- Josh Sikes

Even when his unofficial role as church paparazzi drew a few groans... "Some of them were like, 'Please stop taking my picture!'" ...he knew the memories were worth preserving.

"It's all going in the big slideshow for the congregation," he joked. "Well... maybe."

For Josh, the week at camp was more than a ministry opportunity—it was personal.

"I've had these kids in confirmation for years, and getting to walk alongside them this week, seeing their growth... it was powerful. My daughter even said, 'The week went too fast.' From a middle schooler? That says a lot."

And would he come back?

"In a heartbeat," he said. "I already told my wife we're coming back to visit."

Josh's story is a reminder that God calls all kinds of people to make a difference in young lives. Whether you're a rostered leader or a church volunteer—there's a place for you at camp.

You don't need to know all the answers. You just need to show up, listen well, and maybe say yes to setting the table.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Hello First Lutheran Family! Our FLY group has taken off this year with an exciting August and September!



We have started a new educational event this year inviting representatives of the same denomination, but different branches, to a time of conversation and questions. We started in September with our own Bishop Scott, Pastor Jack (LCMC) from Smithfield, and Vicar Aaron, and Pastor Tim from Holy Cross in Kearney. We had a great conversation of Luther, conviction, faith, and what it means to have faith in times such as these. It was a beautiful start, and our next guests will be Baptists from various branches.

We have also assisted with FROG, had a s'more cookout, and enjoyed frisbee golf before the cold weather sets in! Our church is blessed with a great group of high schoolers, who bring a special energy and perspective to our family!

October will be a busy month for us! We will have our Chili Cook Off on October 15th from 5:30-7:30, you can expect to see more information available. We appreciated the support of everyone last year: it was full of great chili and even greater community. This year we will have a spectacular honor table of Nebraska state senators, the superintendent of KPS, a local owner and partner of Runza, and a representative from the Nebraska Synod! We ask you bring your appetites and personalities as we look to have another memorable night. If you are interested in making some chili, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex, or you can reach out to Kandy or Pastor Logan as well.

We also plan to help out with a local community organization, and carve some pumpkins towards the end of the month. Be on the lookout for some creative designs!



Thank you, Vicker Aaron, Pastor Tim, Pastor Jack, and Bishop Scott, for joining FLY for a great time of conversation. It was a great CrossRoad Conversation, and we are looking forward to more!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Join us anytime! Bring a friend!



Sunday School Schedule:

Pre-K – 2nd grade: 9:50-10:00am – Opening in North Hall
10:00-10:20am – Music in Room #9
10:20-10:50am – Activities in classroom
10:50am – Pick up child(ren) from classroom

3rd grade-5th grade: 9:50-10:00am – Opening in North Hall
10:00-10:30am – Activities in classroom
10:30-10:50am – Music in Room #9
10:50am – Pick up child(ren) from Room #9



F.R.O.G. Schedule:

PreK – 2nd grade: 6:15-6:25pm – FROG Opening (North Hall)
6:25-6:50pm – Bible & activity time (Room 12)
6:50-7:15pm – Games outside/Centennial Hall
7:15-7:40pm – Music in Room #9
7:40-7:45pm – Launch (North Hall)
7:45pm – Pick up child(ren) from North Hall

3rd grade – 5th grade: 6:15-6:25pm – FROG Opening (North Hall)
6:25-6:50pm – Games outside/Centennial Hall
6:50-7:15pm – Music in Room #9
7:15-7:40pm – Bible & activity time (Room 12)
7:40-7:45pm – Launch (North Hall)
7:45pm – Pick up child(ren) from North Hall

EVENTS

New membership classes are held Sundays through October 5th.
Please join us October 12th and meet our newest members.

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

★ Join Our Membership Class! ★



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

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

Welcome Reception

★ Please meet our new members! ★



- Sunday, October 12th
- Centennial Hall
- 9:50 am

Everyone is welcome to join us
for a continental breakfast!

Please join us Sunday, October 5th!

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.

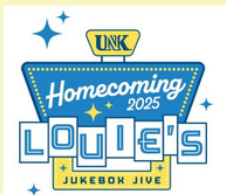
Instructional class October 5 at 9:50 am for second
graders and their parents in Fellowship Hall



Please have pets
on a leash or in a
carrier

**BLESSING
OF THE
ANIMALS**

Sunday, October 5 | 12:30 pm | South Parking Lot



The First Lutheran Preschool will participate
in the UNK Homecoming Parade
When: Saturday, October 11, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Cheer them on!

Look for our awesome Preschool
Students in the UNK parade!



Please attend the Adult Forum on
October 19. We'll hear from the
volunteers that served on the
Asheville, NC Mission Trip.
We'll also discuss options for the
3206 H Avenue Property.

Adult Forum

- October 19th | 9:50 am
- Centennial Hall
- Review the Asheville, NC Mission Trip
- Discussion of the 3206 H Ave Property



EVENTS

**Wednesday night
activities are open to
everyone! Bring a friend!**

Wednesday Night Activities

- 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



First Lutheran's Annual:

Chili

**COOK-
OFF**



**WEDNESDAY, OCT.15TH
5:30-7:30**

LOCATED IN CENTENNIAL HALL AT FLC
COME FOR A NIGHT OF GREAT CHILI AND GREAT
FELLOWSHIP! TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT
THE EVENT TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHILIS.

**FREEWILL OFFERING
TOWARDS FLY MISSION TRIP
AND ACTIVITIES**

Joining us for this great event will be Nebraska
Senators, Stan Klouse and Don Lonowski, the
superintendent of KPS, and a representative
from Runza!

Join Us for a Special Evening of
Fellowship!

The Chili Cook off is an incredible
fundraising event
for FLY.

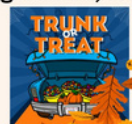
Please sign up in the Narthex to
bring Chili or Cinnamon Rolls.

Thank you to everyone who
participates!

Mark your calendars for a day
full of worship, food, and fun!
Come for the whole day or for
whatever fits your schedule.
We'd love for everyone to stay,
enjoy a meal together, and
celebrate with fellowship and
family-friendly fun!

Reformation Sunday October 26th

- 9:50am - Sunday School
 - 11:00 am - One Unity Service (Traditional)
 - (No 8:45 am service)
 - 12:15 pm - Potluck Luncheon
 - Members with last names A-L, please bring a main dish.
 - Members with last names M-Z, please bring a salad, side or dessert.
 - 1:00 pm - Trunk or Treat
- Stay tuned for more information
on Trunk or Treat*



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

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

**Our Volunteers of the Month for October are:
Asheville, NC Mission Trip Volunteers**



**Your servant hearts helped families find faith
and hope after the hurricane.**

Thank You!

Thank you for the cards
and prayer for Marlene
and her hip episode in
the hospital, Mt Carmel
home and now at our home
at Northridge. The ball
on the left hip broke
resulting in a partial
replacement. It is
healing nicely but take
3 more months to be
completely healed so
more therapy ahead.
Marlene & Milt Kolan

Karen Bigelow 8-5-25
To my many friends at
First Lutheran Church I want to
express my gratitude to all the
people who remembered me on my
birthday.
I miss my church family
more than you will ever know.
I do watch our service on
line and feel connected that way.
My best wishes to all of you!
Karen

Dear First Lutheran Church
Staff & family ~

Thank you so much for the
prayers, cards & messages on
the sudden illness & loss of my
Aunt Pam. Your love & support
has been a great comfort to our family.

Thank You
so much

With heartfelt gratitude ~
Lyn, Anne, Hope & Zach
Schwartz

Thanking God for you.
EPHESIANS 1:16 NLT

FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation.

Here is an update from your Church Council.

As I write this article, 19 people are preparing to depart on the mission trip to Asheville, North Carolina to aid in the disaster recovery efforts. On October 19th, we will be holding a forum between the services to report back to the congregation on what experiences we had and what projects we worked on while in Asheville.

The 3206 H Avenue Task Force met again on August 21st. At this meeting information regarding the costs of the various options were presented. The Task Force is still gathering additional cost estimates regarding this project and will meet again on September 25th to review our options with the goal of presenting three options to the Church Council in October for consideration on what our best course of action is for this property.

Important Dates:

- Sunday, October 5th-- Second Grade Bibles will be distributed to ten families at the 8:45am service.
- Sunday, October 12th--New Members' Reception – Join us between the services to welcome our new members.
- Sunday, October 19th--North Carolina Mission Trip Forum and the 3206 H Avenue Task Force Update
- Sunday, November 2nd--Proposed date for Congregational Meeting regarding the 3206 H Avenue property

Yours in Christ,

P. J. Bartels
Council President

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



Three & Four Year Old Class

Fall Blessings from the 3 & 4 year-old Class!

We have learned so many awesome and amazing things in our first couple weeks of preschool! We have made lots of new friends!

We have practiced writing C,R,H,O,F, and L and singing about all the wonderful sounds that letters make! We practice counting every day, and are learning the days of the week, the months of the year, and a little about the 4 seasons. We learned all about the colors of the rainbow from the stories of Noah's Ark and Joseph's coat of many colors in the Bible. We have colored, painted, and glued many projects using a wide variety of these colors!

We've talked about the joy of learning, amazing facts about animals, and the beauty of leaves and apples. We also had the firefighters come and tell us about fire safety, but our favorite part was definitely the fire truck!

Learning so many fun games and playing outside on the playground are just a couple of the activities that everyone is enjoying! We went to Chapel with Pastor Rick and Pastor Michelle and got to hear many amazing stories and sing new songs! Each one of our preschoolers were given a Spark Bible to keep! This way they can continue to learn more about God at home. The Bookmobile has also visited our school, and it was wonderful to see all the books there are to choose from to check out and take home!

Next month, we are looking forward to learning about and enjoying all things Fall!

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



PreSchool

Happy Fall from the PreK Class!

We have been busy, and the kid's little hands are getting so strong! They are so smart and we get tons done because they listen so well!

During the first few weeks, they reviewed letters, numbers, months of the year, days of the week, shapes, colors, how to make tallies and we are even learning what a sentence looks like. They understand that a period comes at the end, and that spaces between words help us know where one word ends and another begins. The students already have THREE books in their book box that they can read all by themselves.

Our art center, science center, and dramatic play center seem to be the biggest hits for exploring. However, many love listening to books on tape, blocks center, math, and rice table as well.

We've had fun theme weeks too!

- A Week: Apples
- C Week: Clouds, corn, crayons, cracking and cooking eggs
- G Week: God, glitter jars with grandparents, gak/slime, gifts for grandparents, and a fun "ghost game"
- F Week: Fingerpainting, fire safety, and farms (with a visit from real firefighters!)

Our first field trip will be October 3rd at Dimilaco to make their very own t-shirt. We always have a blast with Dennis!

Our "Speaker of the Month" started in September. Parents came in to tell us what their job is, explaining it in a fun "hands on" way - letting us see and touch some of the things they work with. Mrs. Shawna, from the library, will also visit us and read a few amazing books!

For our new students, we were thrilled to give them Spark Bibles to take home and share with their families. What a wonderful way to continue learning about God together.

We hope to see you at the UNK Homecoming parade on Oct. 11th! We will have a cute float!

God Bless and enjoy my favorite month!
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

OCTOBER WORSHIP THEMES

OCTOBER 5, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

HABAKKUK 1:1-4; 2:1-4; PSALM 37:1-9; 2
TIMOTHY 1:1-14; LUKE 17:5-10

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

OCTOBER 12, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

2 KINGS 5:1-3, 7-15c; PSALM 111; 2
TIMOTHY 2:8-15; LUKE 17:11-19;
JEREMIAH 29:1, 4-7; PSALM 66:1-12

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

OCTOBER 19, 2025

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

GENESIS 32:22-31; PSALM 121; 2
TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5; LUKE 18:1-8;
JEREMIAH 31:27-34; PSALM 119:97-104

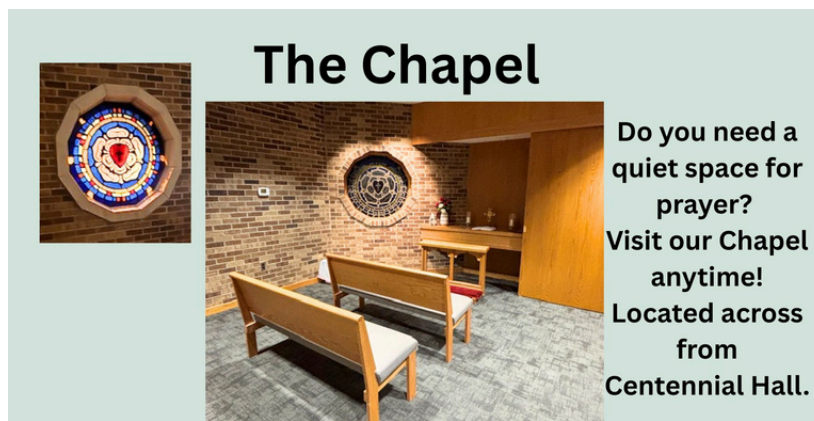
Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

OCTOBER 26, 2025

REFORMATION SUNDAY

JEREMIAH 31:31-34; PSALM 46; ROMANS
3:19-28; JOHN 8:31-36

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.



AUGUST FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	August 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 56,865	\$ 153,618	\$ 143,367
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (60,285)	\$(187,530)	\$ (163,555)
Total 2025-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
Facilities Budget:	August 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 4,608	\$ 13,580	\$ 14,835
Expenditures	\$ (2,538)	\$ (10,074)	\$ (5,895)
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:

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Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

Co-Lead Pastor

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Director of Engagement: Youth, Congregation and Community

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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

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

PRESIDENT:

JUDY WORKMAN

PRESIDENT ELECT:

SHERRYL WILKE

SECRETARY:

STACY DARVEAU

TREASURER:

JO SMALLCOMB

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please review the calendar on our website for updates.

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 9:50 am - Sunday School FLY 9:50 am - 2 nd Grade Bible class with Pastor Michelle, 2 nd graders and parents. 10:00 am - Membership Class 12:30 pm - Animal Blessings 2:00 pm - Brookestone Gardens Worship service
Sat. October 11	10:00am - First Lutheran Preschool participate in UNK Homecoming Parade
Sat/Sun, October 11/12	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Sunday	9:50 am - Sunday School FLY 9:50 am - Membership Reception
Wed/October 15	5:30 - 7:30 pm FLY Chili Cookoff 6:50 pm - Confirmation class
Sat/Sun, October 18/19	Worship Sat. 6 pm Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am Laying on of Hands at all services
Sunday	9:50 am - Sunday School 9:50 am - Adult Forum - Sharing experiences from the North Carolina Mission Trip. Discussion of the 3206 H Ave Property.
Sat/Sun, October 25/26	Worship Sat. 6 pm
Sunday	9:50 am - Sunday School FLY Reformation Sunday - One Unity Service 11:00 am (Traditional Service) 12:15 pm Church Potluck Luncheon 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Trunk or Treat

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.**