

# THE FEBRUARY MESSENGER

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

What if the opposite of being bound is being whole?

Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness.



**Ash Wednesday Services**  
**February 18th**  
**12noon and 6:30pm**

**Wednesday Evening Lenten Services** | 6:30pm - 7:00pm  
**February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**



Join us to celebrate the greatest event in history!

Easter is the most significant event in history, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ, signifying victory over death, the offering of eternal life, and the ultimate display of God's love.

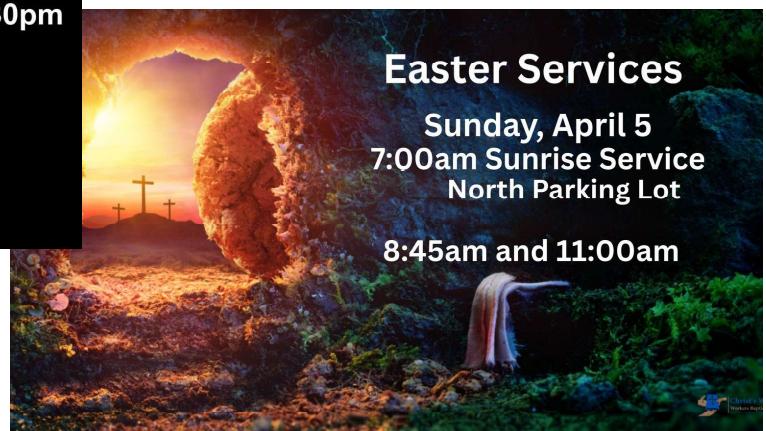
It is a time for renewal, gratitude, and joy!

## Holy Week Schedule of Services

- **Palm Sunday, March 28/29**  
 6pm, 8:45am, 11am
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 6:30pm**
- **Good Friday, April 3 - 6:30pm**
- **Holy Saturday, April 4 - 6pm**
- **Easter Sunday, April 5**  
 7am, 8:45am, 11am

## Easter Services

**Sunday, April 5**  
**7:00am Sunrise Service**  
**North Parking Lot**  
**8:45am and 11:00am**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS AND RESOURCES

## Inside this issue:

LENTEN/EASTER SERVICES	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS,	
RESOURCES & PRAYERS	2
MISSION OUTREACH	3-4
WOMEN'S ELCA	5
EVENTS	6
STEWARDSHIP	7
VOLUNTEER INFO	8
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	9-10
YOUTH MINISTRY	11
MUSIC MINISTRY	12
COUNCIL	13
PRESCHOOL	14-15
WORSHIP THEMES	16
FINANCES	17
CALENDAR	18
LEADERSHIP	19

**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

<b>ELCA:</b>	<a href="http://www.elca.org">www.elca.org</a>
	800-638-3522
<b>Nebraska Synod:</b>	<a href="http://www.nebraskasynod.org">www.nebraskasynod.org</a>
	402-896-5311
<b>Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry:</b>	<a href="http://www.nelcm.com">www.nelcm.com</a> 402-391-1144
<b>Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries:</b>	<a href="http://www.nlom.org">www.nlom.org</a> 402-944-2544
<b>Lutheran World Relief:</b>	<a href="http://www.lwr.org">www.lwr.org</a>
	800-597-5972
<b>Lutheran Disaster Response:</b>	<a href="http://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response">www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response</a>
	800-638-3522



## Prayers of Comfort and Peace for...

- Karen Deterding, Darren and Sonda Deterding, and family on the death of Wayne Deterding.
- Bev Vacha on the death of her brother-in-law, Alvin Vacha.
- Gary and Beth Forbess on the death of Gary's father, Bob Forbess
- Jill Johnson, Beth and Dave Westesen , Sarah and Ryan Haack and families on the death of Joel Johnson.
- Fred and Sandy Erpelding and family on the death of Fred's mother, Carol Ann Erpelding Davis.
- Tyler and Annette Schwartz and family on the death of Tyler's father, George Schwartz.

## MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

### S.A.F.E. Center Donations for February: *Women's Deodorant*



Please set items on the sharing shelf in the narthex.



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

### New Sponsorship Opportunities for 2026 **Purses for a Purpose | The Rhythm of Hope**



This year, we're excited to introduce two new ways for businesses and community partners to support our Purse Auction—both designed to create meaningful impact while offering visible recognition.

#### Gift Card Sponsorships

Businesses can sponsor Surprise Packages at the Purse Auction by donating gift cards. These packages are featured at a dedicated table during the event, and gift card sponsors are recognized at the Surprise Package table and on our digital screens throughout the evening.

#### Community Cookbook Advertising

We're also offering advertising space in our new community cookbook, *A S.A.F.E. Table: Recipes for a Fresh Start*. This cookbook will be gifted to shelter clients as they leave shelter and sold at the Purse Auction, creating a lasting connection between your business and our mission.

 Our major sponsorship levels are also available for those looking to make a larger impact.

## MISSION OUTREACH



Last Friday was all big smiles, full hearts, and a whole lot of love as Haylee Chadwick and her family were handed the keys to their home! We can't wait to see all of the new memories that will be created here. Many community groups generously provided items to help her get started in her new home. Thank you to everyone involved in making this house possible and for helping Haylee begin her homeownership journey on the right foot.

This special night marked our second home dedication from the 2025 build season, and we're excited for even more dedications ahead in 2026.



**Jubilee Meals for  
February - March  
are served the  
2nd and 4th Thursdays  
at First Lutheran Church  
3315 Avenue G**

**Dinner Served 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
February 12 & 26  
March 12 & 26**



# WOMEN'S ELCA



Wishing a month to celebrate Love! Especially God's Love!  
 Women's ELCA First Lutheran Church Board Meeting (Highlights)  
 Held January 15, 2026 - 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Call to Order: President Judy Workman – 6 in attendance

Purpose Statement read and Devotion: Judy shared the devotion “Chocolate Chip Cookie Love” reminder of what you love about coming home and the blessings of family.

Minutes – November 4, 2025 – Stacy Darveau read the Minutes. Addition – Donations at the Christmas Coffee went directly to the Safe Center. The event could not be used as a fundraiser for sponsors. Motion to approve the minutes as amended. (Jo/Sherryl). Motion Seconded Carried (MSC) to approve.

Treasurer's Report – Jo Smallcomb gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a beginning balance of \$1,963.19. Income of \$537.50; expenses of \$827.73 for an ending balance of \$1672.96. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report as written. (Sherryl/Diane). MSC to approve. Jo indicated that \$450 was approved for Lutheran World Relief kits. This year after expenses for the kits, there is \$233.27 left unspent and was approved to remain in the account.

Committee Reports: No reports from: Mission Action; Mission Community; Mission Growth. Helping Hands – Served on Funeral – \$312.50 in donations

## Events:

- FLC Women's ELCA Spring Event date change to April 18 @ 10 am discussion on Brunch will occur at the March meeting to finalize and have sign up.
- Winter Retreat held at St Paul Lutheran in Grand Island. Usual donation is \$50. Motion to approve the gift of \$50 each to each of the Retreats – Winter Retreat, Spring Gathering and Autumn Renewal. (Sherryl/Diane). MSC to approve.

## Winter Retreat at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island:

The theme of “Joy in the Journey” was carried out by the speakers that shared how we can be honest with ourselves about the way we approach life and how to handle the stress and hardships we face in life with God's help.

**SPEAKERS:** Karol Swan, Common Grounds, explained the difference between natural and organic foods & the process for approvals to be marketed and was featured on Pure Nebraska over 70 times.

Pastor Greg Berger, Assistant to Bishops, conducted a question-and-answer style sermon on our journey in life.

Valerie Killinger, host for the event, spoke on safeguards from scammers and also had a fashion show of the clothes available at the St. Paul Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop.

Mary Mayfield, Save to Serve Chair, spoke about Mosaic in Beatrice

**UPCOMING EVENTS** – Posted on the Women's ELCA Bulletin Board located outside the church office.  
 MARCH 19, 2026 – Women's ELCA BOARD MEETING – Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.

APRIL 18, 2026 – First Lutheran Church Women's ELCA SPRING EVENT – FELLOWSHIP HALL

MAY 6, 2026 – Southern Prairie meeting – Bethany Lutheran/Minden

JULY 16-18, 2026 – TRIENNIAL National event in Des Moines, IA

Women's ELCA BOARD –  
 Judy Workman, President  
 Sherryl Wilke, President Elect  
 Stacy Darveau, Secretary/Scribe  
 Jo Smallcomb, Treasurer



Winter Retreat January 17, 2026 St. Paul's Lutheran Church / Grand Island

## EVENTS

### Scout Troop Breakfast and Bake Sale Fundraiser



Help support our activities!

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Between Services  
9:30-12noon  
Centennial Hall

First Lutheran Church  
3315 G Ave  
Kearney

Who doesn't like a good  
bakesale or waffle?  
Let's support our scouts!!



**F.R.O.G. and  
Feeding the Flock  
will not take place on  
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.**

*Feeding the Flock will resume Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>  
F.R.O.G. will resume Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>*

**FLY - Please check your emails for updates**

**Please join us for Ash Wednesday Services at  
12noon or 6:30pm.**

Feeding the Flock  
and F.R.O.G. will take  
place weekly until  
February 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Feeding the Flock  
will resume February  
25<sup>th</sup> and be served  
during  
Lenten Season.  
FROG will resume  
April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The Mid-Week Lenten Offerings  
will go toward the  
Lexington, Nebraska Food Bank.**



**Wednesdays | February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

## STEWARSHIP

Hello First Lutheran Family,

Our Stewardship Committee is looking forward to February. We will be meeting with our leadership committees to learn where they are seeing God guiding our congregation. We are very thankful for everyone's participation in the Stewardship Campaign, and we are blessed to share and highlight all the great ministries that help our church to shine.

The next edition of the Messenger will contain samples and quotes from our teams. Here are the questions we plan to ask:

1. Where do you see God's light shining in our congregation?
2. Is there a current ministry/outreach that speaks to you, or that you find important to identify?
3. Where do you hope to see the church in the next year?

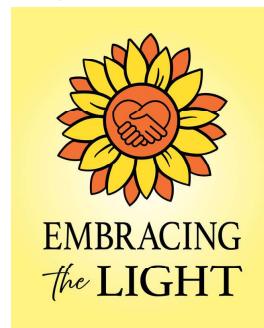
We want to share with you some of the answers we have already received. One highlight is a response to question 2, in which someone submitted this :

"I personally love working with the kiddos!! I love to see faith through their eyes".

We have heard people highlight our ministries connected to youth as important to our identity, and a place where they have seen God's light shining. Through F.R.O.G., FLY, Sunday School, VBS, and other opportunities, our church is invested and connecting with youth in the community. It is a blessing to witness God's love from their perspective! We look forward to sharing more insights like these with you next month.

Stewardship Committee;

Pastor Logan Ellis, Randy Hinrichs, Scott Darveau, CJ Sabah, Annette Schwartz, Sharon Liljehorn, Mark Kottmeyer, Pastor Rick Carlson



## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

**A special “THANK YOU” to our  
Volunteers of the Month.**

**Our February Volunteers of the Month are:  
Members of the Property Task Team**



This team devoted countless hours researching the costs of keeping, selling, repurposing, or renting the property - so our congregation could make an informed decision and vote with confidence.

**Thank you, P.J. Bartels, Scott Darveau,  
Kim Deyo, Pam Epley, Lee Fritson,  
Laura Love, and Alex Straatmann.**

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Help is needed in the areas listed below. If you can help, please contact the church office for more information.

- Lector
- Assisting Minister
- Communion Assistants
- Sound Booth / Projector
- Wednesday night F.R.O.G. Leader
- Chancel Choir
- Coffee Hosts
- Meals on Wheels

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Wednesday Night Activities

- 5:15 pm - Praisers 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
- 6:30 pm - FLY\*

\*check emails for updates



REGISTER NOW  
for F.R.O.G &  
Confirmation Class on  
our website, if you  
haven't registered  
before.

Youth Programs have  
resumed.

Sunday School meets at  
9:50am every Sunday.  
Bring a friend!

### F.R.O.G. ● FLY ● Sunday School What's the difference?

- F.R.O.G. *Fully Rely On God* | Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Meets Wednesday evenings providing a fun look into God's Word through games, crafts, music and lessons.
- Middle School | 6th - 8th Grade. Meets Wednesday evenings attending Confirmation Class.
- FLY *First Lutheran Youth* | 9th - 12th Grade. Meets Wednesday evenings learning God's Word, meeting community leaders, or having a fun activity. Periodically meets off-site for games or serving in the community.
- Sunday School | Ages Pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Meets Sunday mornings receiving a structured lesson into God's Word. Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade also has music Sunday Mornings.



### 4th and 5th Grade First Communion Classes

- Wednesdays
- 5:45 pm - 6:20 pm
- February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25<sup>th</sup>
- Fellowship Hall
- Please register by February 11th

Registration forms are on the Welcome Stations.  
Please contact the office if you didn't receive the  
email to pre-register.

Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders should've received an email from Jen Puls with the registration form for First Communion Class. If you didn't receive the email, please reach out to the office at: 308-237-5544

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Confirmation Camp occurs every summer, but there's several camps offered that any age can attend!

Looking for a way to build character, encourage faith, and have fun?

### CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP

- Camp experiences for grades 1st-12th
- Scholarships through FLC are available
- Contact church office for more details or ?s



Unity Hygee Sunday School - cozy stories by the fireplace!  
Thank you Bridget VonSeggern, Michelle Garth, and  
Pastor John for being our readers.



## YOUTH MINISTRY - FLY



FLY welcomed the new year in with some great conversations. We hosted our CrossRoads Conversations with Methodists and Non-Denominational pastors. We also had Kearney Mayor, Jonathan Nikkila, join us to talk about faith and service.

This upcoming month we will be looking at the basement area to make it a more inviting space for guests and youth of the church.

FLY is hoping to host a lock-in for all local Lutheran youth later this year. We are taking the advice of many parents to clean up before we have friends over. More details will be coming next month.

We plan to connect with community partners for service opportunities, along with potentially sharing fellowship with other youth groups.

-Pastor Logan



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### **Praising God through music!**

The choirs practice weekly and all are welcome to join!

Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

High School through adults are welcome

CJ Sabah - Director

Chancel Bells rehearses on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

Choir is open to high schoolers through adults

Natalie Radcliffe - Director

Sound Offering Praise Band rehearses on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

If interested contact Stacy Bean

Stacy Bean - Director

Praiser Bells rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 5:45 PM

This choir is for 3rd grade through 8th grade

Angela Wright - Director

Heavenly Treble Makers rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 6:45 PM

This is a vocal choir for middle schoolers

Angela Wright - Director

Children's Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings during Sunday School

and Wednesday evenings during F.R.O.G.

All children are welcome.

Amanda Lewis - Director

### **Winter & Spring Children's Choir Dates**

- Feb. 15th @ the 11am service - I will call the kids forward at the beginning of the service.
- March 29th @ the 8:45am service - PLEASE have children arrive at 8:15am to practice with all the choirs!
- April 19th @ the 11am service.
- May 10th @ the 8:45am service - Please arrive at 8:30am to Classroom 9 for a quick practice.

Questions? Call or text Amanda Lewis at 308-240-0872. Thanks!

### **Organist/Pianist Choir Accompanist Paid Positions Available**

**First Lutheran Church**  
3315 G Avenue, Kearney NE 68845  
Contact Natalie Radcliffe  
308-237-5544  
[natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org](mailto:natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org)

Organist/Pianist: One to three weeks per month

Choir Accompanist:

Wednesday evening rehearsals and one service weekly,  
September thru May

These positions are available immediately

Do you play the organ or piano and have a couple of hours to work each week? Or do you know someone? This is a part-time, paid position.

Please reach out to Natalie Radcliffe.

## FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation,

The 3206 Ave H property online auction has been completed. The Council accepted a bid of \$178,000 for this property.

An update regarding the Capital Campaign Pledges: of the \$1,029,114 pledges received, \$1,028,761 has been received, with \$353 remaining to be received. I would like to thank the Congregation for their ongoing support of this renovation project.

ELCA Good Gift: We received \$3,925 during this campaign. With the matching Endowment pledge of \$3,000, we are able to send a total of \$6,925 to the ELCA for hunger relief.

### Important Dates:

February 8th—Scout Sunday and Brunch

February 18th—Ash Wednesday services at 12 noon and 6:30pm

February 22nd—New Member Reception

February 25th, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 - Lenten Services

Let us continue our focus on Jesus's ministry as we enter the Lenten season.

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



**Become Part of Our Church Family**

Curious about what we believe? Looking for a church to call home, or know someone who is?

First Lutheran Church might be the perfect fit! We're a church where people know each other, care for one another, and grow together in faith.

New Members' Class  
Sundays: February 1, 8 & 15 | 10:00am | Fellowship Hall

New Members' Welcome Reception February 22 at 9:45am in Centennial Hall.  
Join us for a Continental Breakfast and welcome our new members!

## Three & Four Year Old Class

Happy New Year from the Three and Four Year Old Classroom,

January was all about winter and snow. Our class learned why we have snow and how snowflakes are formed. We also learned about the different animals that hibernate and migrate. We studied polar animals and what makes them suitable to live in cold climates. After spending so much time learning about snowy cold weather, we took a break during the last week of January to dream of warmer places and celebrated Aloha week. We made flower leis and sandcastles, explored seashells and read many books about tropical fish. We practiced writing and recognizing the letters W, S, B and J.

We enjoyed seeing everyone at our Preschool Fundraiser Brunch on Sunday, January 18. It was great to having our preschoolers sing in church that Sunday, and to show our families their art projects!

February will start off with Groundhog Day, and our class will be exploring shadows. We are all looking forward to having our moms and grandmas visit our classroom for Muffins with Mom!!! We even get to make mudpies with them! We will be learning about our beating heart, celebrating Valentine's Day, learning ways to take care of our teeth and talking about the importance of seeing our dentist regularly and we will finish the month with learning about Dinosaurs. We will be focusing on the letters K, M, N and U.

March is sure to be a fun month! We will be learning about leprechauns, Saint Patrick's Day, feeling lucky, and we will also begin to talk about the Easter holiday, and springtime! We will focus on the letters X, Y and Z.

--Ms. Marissa



Hello First Lutheran!

We hope 2026 is going very well for you!

## Pre-K

We began the year with making a fun snowman and writing “2026” on the snowman’s hat. We had white, black, stripe, backwards day, inside out day, silly hat day and hopefully our 100<sup>th</sup> day on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>! (if we don’t have any snow days.) We are learning about snow, ice and water. They can tell you the difference between a solid, gas, and liquid.

They have lots of new centers. They can read around the room with pointers! They know many words, numbers, letters and shapes. They have a ton of wood blocks in the block center and are having a blast creating with them. Soon they also will have a music center and will make some of the most beautiful music.

They are getting really good at making snowflakes out of coffee filters and paper. We have a pretend paper friend on the wall and we are surrounding her with snow. They also painted with puffy paint, and played with shaving cream on the table. Oh, it is so much fun!

Our teddy bear picnic day is coming soon! The student’s will bring their teddy bear or other favorite stuffed animal. The stuffed animals will join us on our busy day. We’ll even have a picnic with them and eat pizza! Some might want to have a tea party with them, too!

By the time you read this our Preschool Brunch will be over and I am sure it will be another fun time! Thank you for your support and coming to see what we are up to. Donations that we receive at the breakfast will go towards our scholarship program with our goal of \$4,500. Preschool registration is now open to the public!

Valentine’s Day is just around the corner! Tell those family and friends how much they mean to you!

Have a blessed February!

Mrs. Amanda and Mrs. Sonya



Thank you to everyone who donated food, drinks, money, and their time to the Preschool Brunch Fundraiser.

We raised \$1,130 for the Preschool Scholarship Program!



## WORSHIP THEMES

### FEBRUARY 1, 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

MICAH 6:1-8; PSALM 15; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31; MATTHEW 5:1-12

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism, we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

### FEBRUARY 8, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ISAIAH 58:1-9a [9b-12]; PSALM 112:1-9 [10]; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12 [13-16]; MATTHEW 5:13-20

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we lose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to the light of their good words shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

### FEBRUARY 15, 2026 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD LAST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

EXODUS 24:12-18; PSALM 2; PSALM 99; 2 PETER 1:16-21; MATTHEW 17:1-9

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. The vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

### FEBRUARY 22, 2026 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7; PSALM 32; ROMANS 5:12-19; MATTHEW 4:1-11

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

## FINANCIALS:

DECEMBER FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	Dec 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 91,462	\$ 408,207	\$ 393,779
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (53,847)	\$ (438,296)	\$ (413,791)
Total 2025-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
Facilities Budget:	Dec 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 5,910	\$ 35,849	\$ 36,333
Expenditures	\$ (3,485)	\$ (23,015)	\$ (12,365)
Total 2025-2026 Facilities Budget: \$28,100			

A letter from First Lutheran's Insurance provider:

*Greetings! I wanted to touch base as we've had several ministries report cyber attacks and phishing emails. Ministries and churches are often targeted due to the perceived inherent trust.*

*Be on the lookout for:*

- *Phishing Attacks* – we are seeing these go out to staff trying to trick you into releasing sensitive information (list of members with personal information included). It's critical to let people know to watch for these type of emails and not release information.
- *Business Email Compromise* – hackers infiltrate email accounts to impersonate leadership asking for funds, gift cards, etc. It's important to let your members know you would not ask for such items by email or text.
- *Ransomware Attacks* – this is malicious software that can encrypt files and then demand a ransom for release, disrupting services, giving platforms, etc.

*When in doubt, always contact the individual requesting information to be sure it is legitimate and don't click on malicious links (hover your mouse over the link to see the actual destination to see if you recognize it).*

*Brotherhood Mutual has a cyber security checklist that is a good starting point to better protect you: <https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/safety-library/cyber-security-checklist>.”*

*Blessings, Julie Hubbart  
Client Advisor | Lightwell Insurance Advisors*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Please review the calendar at [FirstLutheranKearney.org](http://FirstLutheranKearney.org) for updates.  
Laying on of Hands will occur on the First and Third weekends**

### February Events

Sat/Sun, Jan. 31/Feb. 1 Sunday	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am 9:50 am Sunday School   FLY meet 9:50 am - Adult Forum - Centennial Hall 10:00 am   New Member's Class   Fellowship Hall 2:00 pm - Brookestone Gardens Worship Service
Wed/February 4	11am - Preschool - Muffins with Mom
Sat/Sun, February 7/8 Scout Sunday Brunch Sunday	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am 9:30 am - 11:30 am - Brunch served between services 9:50 am Sunday School   FLY 10:00 am   New Member's Class   Fellowship Hall
Thurs./February 12	Jubilee Meal - Doors open at 5pm, meal served at 5:30
Sat/Sun, February 14/15 Sunday	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am 9:50 am Sunday School   FLY 10:00 am   New Member's Class   Fellowship Hall
Wed/February 18	12noon and 6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Services (no Feeding the Flock or F.R.O.G.)
Sat/Sun, February 21/22 Sunday	Saturday - FLY at Storm Hockey Game Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am 9:45 am   New Member's Reception   Centennial Hall 9:50 am Sunday School   FLY
Wed/February 25	5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock 5:45 pm - First Communion Class / Fellowship Hall <b>6:30 pm - Lenten Service</b>
Thurs/February 26 Fri/Sat, Feb 27/28	Jubilee Meal - Doors open at 5pm, meal served at 5:30 Synod Youth Leaders Retreat - Fellowship Hall / First Lutheran

### March Events

Sat/Sun, Feb 28/Mar 1 Sun	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am 2:00 pm - Brookestone Gardens Worship Service
Wed/Mar 4	5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class: <b>6:30 pm Lenten Service</b>
Sat/Sun, Mar 7/8	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Wed/Mar 11	5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class: <b>6:30 pm Lenten Service</b>
Thurs/Mar 12	Jubilee Meal - Doors open at 5pm, meal served at 5:30
Sat/Sun, Mar 14/15	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Wed/Mar 18	5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class: <b>6:30 pm Lenten Service</b>
Sat/Sun, Mar 21/22	Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Wed/Mar 25	5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class: <b>6:30 pm Lenten Service</b>
Thurs/Mar 26	Jubilee Meal - Doors open at 5pm, meal served at 5:30
Sat/Sun, Mar 28/29	Palm Sunday - Worship Sat. 6 pm   Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Thur/April 2	6:30pm Service - Maundy Thursday
Fri/ April 3	6:30pm Service - Good Friday
Sat / April 4	6:00pm Service - Holy Saturday
Sun / April 5	7am, 8:45am, 11am - Easter Services
Sun	2:00 pm - Brookestone Gardens Worship Service

**Church Office** [office@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:office@firstlutherankearney.org)

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**PASTORS:**

**Pastor Rick Carlson**

Co-Lead Pastor

[rcarlson@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:rcarlson@firstlutherankearney.org)

*President*

PJ Bartels

**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

Co-Lead Pastor

[mcarlson@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:mcarlson@firstlutherankearney.org)

*Vice President*

Scott Darveau

**STAFF:**

**Kandy Bacon**

Administrative Assistant

[kbacon@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:kbacon@firstlutherankearney.org)

*Treasurer*

Lisa Parish

**Kathy Benne**

Director of Communications and Events

[kbenne@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:kbenne@firstlutherankearney.org)

*Secretary*

Deb Schauer

**Pastor Logan Ellis**

Director of Engagement: Youth, Congregation and Community

[lellis@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:lellis@firstlutherankearney.org)

*Members:*

Christine Fisher

Jay Kuecker

Tyler Schwartz

Shirley Smalley

Terry Volker

Pastor Michelle

Pastor Rick

**Amanda Lewis**

Preschool Director

[amandalewis@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:amandalewis@firstlutherankearney.org)

**Jen Puls**

Records Management

[JPuls@region3.net](mailto:JPuls@region3.net)

**Natalie Radcliffe**

Music Coordinator

[natalieradcliffe@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:natalieradcliffe@firstlutherankearney.org)

**Sarah Schweitzer**

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

[Volunteers@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:Volunteers@firstlutherankearney.org)

**Stacy Seim**

Bookkeeper

[sseim@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:sseim@firstlutherankearney.org)



**2025-2026 OFFICERS**

*President:*

Judy Workman 308-237-2781

*President Elect:*

Sherryl Wilke 308-390-1346

*Secretary:*

Stacy Darveau 308-627-5546

*Treasurer:*

Jo Smallcomb 308-234-3053

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MIDWEST CONNECT

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](mailto:office@firstlutherankearney.org)

LIVE Radio Broadcast Sundays at 8:45am | KXPN 1460AM

PHONE: 308-237-5544 WEB: <https://firstlutherankearney.org>

Office Hours: 8:30am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday

- If your email address has changed recently, please contact the church office.
- To save the church postage costs by picking up your hard copy of "The Messenger" from the welcome station, instead of it being mailed, please call or email the church office. Mailings have been taking up to two weeks for delivery.