

# THE MARCH MESSENGER

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

Easter marks the most hopeful and powerful moment in our history as Christians: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's more than a spring tradition or a day filled with pastels and eggs. Easter is the celebration of God's promise fulfilled and the victory of life over death. It's the heart of our faith, where sorrow turns to joy and death gives way to life.

In a world full of questions and uncertainty, Easter stands as a steady reminder that God keeps His promises. The resurrection of Jesus offers real hope, not just for the future but for today.

Whether you've celebrated Easter your whole life or you're still exploring what it means, this season invites you to experience the power, love, and lasting peace found in the risen Christ. The story of Easter brings hope to the weary, purpose to the searching, and assurance to the believer. It's a time to remember, to rejoice, and to respond to the life-changing truth of Jesus' resurrection.



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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](http://www.elca.org)  
800-638-3522**

**Nebraska Synod: [www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)  
402-896-5311**

**Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry:  
[www.nelcm.com](http://www.nelcm.com) 402-391-1144**

**Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries:  
[www.nlom.org](http://www.nlom.org) 402-944-2544**

**Lutheran World Relief: [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org)  
800-597-5972**

**Lutheran Disaster Response:  
[www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response](http://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response)  
800-638-3522**



## **Prayers of Comfort and Peace for...**

- Robert and Carole Dreher on the death of Robert's mother, Alice Dreher.
- Daryl Rodgers, Janet and Dave Dwiggin, and family on the death of Gena Rodgers.
- Dean Wiese on the death of his sister-in-law, Marlene Wiese.

## LENTEN SERVICES / HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday Evening  
Lenten Services  
6:30pm - 7:00pm



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.

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Christian calendar, marking Jesus' final days on earth and his ultimate sacrifice for humanity.

It is a time of deep spiritual reflection, reminding believers of his journey of love, suffering and redemption.

The week begins with Palm Sunday, celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper where Jesus washed his disciples' feet and shared a final meal with them. Good Friday is a day of reflection, remembering his crucifixion – a sacrifice made to redeem the world. Holy Week leads to Easter Sunday, a day of hope, celebrating Christ's resurrection and victory over sin and death.

This final day of Holy Week is also known as the Great Sabbath, Easter Eve, Joyous Saturday and more. It marks a day of anticipation, meditation and reflection, and for some, preparations for Easter Sunday celebrations. It also marks the end of Lent (fasting) that many undertake in the leadup to Easter.

### 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



## MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

### S.A.F.E. Center Donations for March:



**Q-Tips, Cotton Balls  
and Band-Aids**

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

Tickets are officially ON SALE for The Rhythm of Hope:  
The 22nd Annual Purse for a Purpose!



This event isn't just something  
you attend.

It's something you help create.

Are you able to donate:

A new or gently loved purse?

A creative gift basket?

A unique experience (dinner,  
tickets, lessons, getaway)?

A gift card from your  
business?

Ready to donate?

📍 Drop items off at The S.A.F.E. Center

☎ Call (308) 237-2599 with questions

✉ Email [purseauction@safecenter.org](mailto:purseauction@safecenter.org)

# MISSION OUTREACH



These photos may not mean anything to a lot of people, but this is the foundation for future home owners! The weather has been very cooperative for contractors to complete most of the first phase of paving. This will help 15 families have new homes and new memories! 🏠



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

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

A collection of fresh vegetables including tomatoes, bananas, lettuce, and cucumbers arranged around the text.

Thank you to those who help prepare and serve the Jubilee Meals!

You can find the links to these opportunities on our website!

## Mission Opportunities: A second mission trip is planned for North Carolina in 2027.

**Here are other opportunities  
to serve now:**

- NE Synod 2026 Mission Trip - Eastern Tennessee March 7 - 15th.
- Habitat for Humanity / Kearney
- Jubilee Center

## WOMEN'S ELCA



Blessings to you all as we start our Lenten season.

**First Lutheran Church WELCA** – is encouraging all to join in the activities offered to FLC members including circle and prayer groups. You can belong and find new friends and share the study of the bible. We support those seeking a place to grow in faith, lend knowledge, and enjoy being with others.

The events coming up at FLC and Nebraska WELCA are listed below for you to consider attending. The next **FLC Board Meeting** will be held March 19th. We will be discussing the Spring Event to be held April 18th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### **Updates from Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Board:**

The Spring Gatherings for 2026 for various conferences including Southern Prairie Conference (FLC members) to be held May 2, 2026, in Minden. The theme is “Together in Christ” based on Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing”.

Registration sheets are posted on WELCA Board located in hallway by FLC coffee bar.

Speakers: **Lisa Guthrie, RN Executive Director of Help Care Clinic in Kearney.** She leads the mission to provide free, high-quality medical care to the uninsured. She oversees community partnerships, and sustainable programs for immediate and long-term needs.

**Brenda Rodriguez, Shelter Manager and Advocate for the S.A.F.E. Center Kearney.** She helps survivors of abuse reclaim their power, recognize their worth, and build self-sufficiency.

She will address the needs of the agency, and a list of tangible items will be posted.

**SAVE TO SERVE - Midland University** was chosen as the next Save to Serve location for the dates of **August 14-16, 2026.** The Chair Mary Mayfield is looking to step down, and the Nebraska WELCA organization is looking for someone to take her place. Please consider stepping up to help with the projects, always rewarding and it is great to help the young and old. More information on the event will be available in coming weeks, save the date!

*May you have a beautiful spring and rejoice in blessings. - Judy Workman*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS -**

MARCH 19 – WELCA BOARD MEETING – Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.

APRIL 18 – First Lutheran Church WELCA SPRING EVENT – FELLOWSHIP HALL 10 AM

MAY 2 – Southern Prairie meeting – Bethany Lutheran/Minden – Register by April 26

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

WELCA BOARD – Judy Workman, President  
Sherryl Wilke, President Elect  
Stacy Darveau, Secretary/Scribe  
Jo Smallcomb, Treasurer



## STEWARDSHIP

Hello First Lutheran Family,

The Stewardship Committee thanks all those who have submitted feedback through our surveys. Starting this month, we want to highlight some of the great insights shared by our church family. We will list the questions, and provide some answers that were submitted:

### **Question 1- Where do you see God's light shining in our congregation?**

*A: Our Feeding the Flock meals have been a great place for people of all ages and interests to come together.*

*A: It has been amazing to see how our church helps the community. The shopping cart for example has been continually emptied, only to be restocked the next week!*

### **Question 2- Is there a current ministry/outreach that speaks to you, or that you find important to identify?**

*A: The FROG programming is so important for families, and it fills our church with joyful energy!*

*A: The many small group opportunities that give people a variety of ways to connect with others is amazing!*

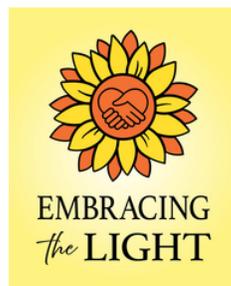
### **Question 3- Where do you hope to see the church in the next year?**

*A: Continuing to be an important pillar of our community.*

*A: Seeing people from different backgrounds and preferences doing God's work in our community and places in need.*

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.

### March Volunteers of the Month

We're excited to recognize  
**Vicki Conn, Dennis Gorr, and Myron Riddle**  
as our **Volunteers of the Month!**

They have completed training to serve as **Stephen Ministers**,  
providing compassionate care and support to individuals walking  
through life's transitions and difficult seasons.

Thank you for being such a blessing to our church family.



What kind of person did it take to be chosen to be a spokesperson for God? Out of 39 Old Testament books, 17 bear the name of a prophet. Apart from them, dozens of prophets made appearances in the Biblical narrative, revealing the will of God. Despite the honor of the position, ordinary people were chosen to leave their current circumstances to become a spokesperson of God, ready to deliver His message, no matter how unpopular it sat with their contemporaries.



**Adult Bible Study  
with Pastor Rick**

**God's Spokespersons:  
The Prophets and Their Books**

**Sundays at 9:50am | Centennial Hall  
March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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

- Wednesdays
- 5:45 pm - 6:20 pm
- Fellowship Hall

First Communion will be celebrated during Maundy Thursday Service, April 2<sup>nd</sup> followed with a reception in Centennial Hall.

First Communion Classes are in session. This is a five week class with Pastor Michelle and Pastor Rick. The students learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion, and prepare to receive Christ's Body and Blood for a lifetime of grace and joy.

The First Communion Class will receive their First Holy Communion during the Maundy Thursday Service, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### First Communion

- Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 5:45 pm Pictures
- 6:30 pm Service
- Reception following service in Centennial Hall

### Wednesday Night Activities

- F.R.O.G. will resume Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Confirmation Class will have bowling night, Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and resume classes Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.



Wednesday night youth activities will return April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## YOUTH MINISTRY - FLY



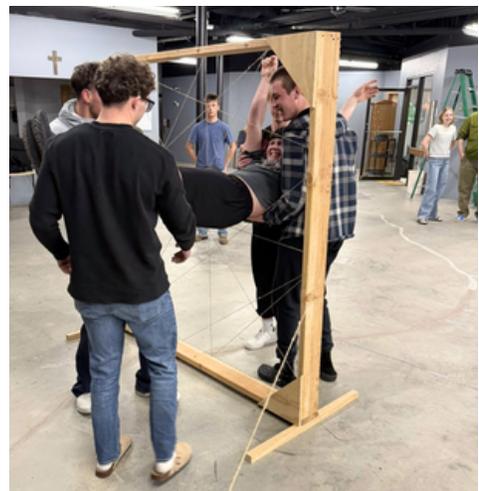
FLY Article-

February was an exciting month for FLY! The Youth Group has felt inspired to host a Youth Lock-In, so we have been hard at work redesigning the space. Through a couple of moving days and paint days, we are feeling proud of this great space! We have some furnishing changes left, but the place has a different personality already. This month was also the start of our ventures into the community to interact with other youth groups. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we hosted First United Methodist's Youth Group, and it was a wonderful experience! We are looking forward to visiting our friends at Holy Cross in April.

March brings many interesting events not just to FLY, but also to the Ellis Family Youth group as well. We are planning to engage in community service with a local partner, finish our basement, continue to plan our lock-in, and continue to develop our faith through thought and action. It has been wonderful to see the leadership our youth has taken, not just in their schools, but also in our church!

Miranda Wright will give the Lenten reflection for March 4<sup>th</sup> as part of our Lenten Series "Unbound: Longing for Wholeness". Come to hear some great perspectives on Jacob's life and story!

-Pastor Logan



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## Winter & Spring Children's Choir Dates

- 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!

**Save the Date!**  
**Easter Cantata**  
**April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> - All services**  
**Details to come!**

## ***NATALIE & FRIENDS IN CONCERT***

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026**

**3:00 PM**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



No charge but freewill offering to support the handbell program

**Participants:**

**Natalie Radcliffe-flute  
Chancel Bells, Praiser Bells  
UNK Flute Choir, and Friends**

Unfortunately, we haven't received any applications for the organist position. If you know anyone who can play an organ, and would like a meaningful, part-time position, please share with them.

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

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

## FROM THE COUNCIL

An update from your Church Council:

The 3206 Ave H property sale is set to close on or around March 3<sup>rd</sup>. It should be noted that at closing the only costs the Church will incur will be the usual pro-ration of real estate taxes, documentary stamps and similar costs. The Church will NOT be paying any commissions on this sale as the purchaser will be paying a buyer's fee.

We have had a very successful Capital Campaign for the renovation project. While most pledges have been received, there are still some pledges outstanding and it is anticipated that the majority of the outstanding pledges will be received. The Council would like to thank the Congregation for their ongoing support of this project.

The Council approved two Stevenson Grant requests, the first from FLY in the amount of \$1500 for basement updates/improvements in the youth area. The second request was from the Property Committee in the amount of \$2700 to update the Church's security system.

The Council also approved the summer worship schedule. Beginning May 24<sup>th</sup> and continuing through August 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be **one Sunday** worship service at 9:45am. The Saturday evening service will not be affected and the service will remain at 6:00pm.

Important Dates:

Wednesday evening Lenten worship services will run from 6:30pm to 7:00pm continuing through March 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

# Pre-K



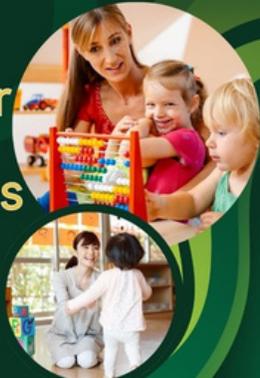
Doesn't this look like a fun job? If you know anyone looking for a great part-time position, please share this with them!

**We are Hiring!**

**Part-Time Head Teacher  
for the Three and Four  
Year Old Preschool Class**

**Apply on the First Lutheran  
Church Website**

[firstlutheranearney.org/employment-opportunities](http://firstlutheranearney.org/employment-opportunities)



 **COLOR THEIR  
FUTURE**

**Preschool Scholarship Fundraiser**

Pick up an envelope from the Narthex.  
Envelopes are numbered 1 - 100.  
Donate the amount on the  
outside of the envelope.



Giving a scholarship helps families access high-quality, faith-based, early childhood education while easing financial burdens. These scholarships support our mission to serve the community and provide a safe, nurturing environment.

Please help support our scholarship program by picking up a donation envelope from the table in the Narthex. Details can be found on the table.

## Three & Four Year Old Class



Greetings!

In February, we learned all about Groundhog Day and explored shadows.

Our Muffins with Mom celebration was so much fun! We got to make mudpies with them and played with the parachute!

We learned about our beating heart, celebrated Valentine's Day, learned about poison safety, and finished the month learning about the importance of seeing our dentist regularly and ways to take care of our teeth. We focused on the letters K, M, and N.

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

We will focus on the letters U, X, Y and Z.

God's Blessings to you all,  
Ms. Marissa, Mrs. Deb, Mrs. Linda, and Mrs. Kelly



## Pre-K



Hello First Lutheran Congregation!

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

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

UNK students and dental professionals visited and taught us about dental care. It was soooo fun!

The week of our Valentine's Party was a blast! We played a heart memory game and musical hearts. Their valentine boxes and valentines were beautiful! We have some very creative families! They learned how to use a baggie dipped in paint to make roses on paper

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

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

Our March field trip will be to the Kearney Area Animal Shelter which is always the student's favorite field trip!

Our Spring Break coincides with KPS from March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, we will learn about Easter and why we celebrate that Holy Sunday! We will color eggs, have an egg hunt, and read lots of books about Jesus. They also will make a cute basket.

Many March Blessings to you and your families!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya



# NEW MEMBERS

Meet our new members and  
give them a warm welcome when you see them!



Jay, Holli, Hayley,  
and Jayme Huhman



Tom and Marcee Johnson



Ava Page



Marlene Pankonin

# NEW MEMBERS

Meet our new members and  
give them a warm welcome when you see them!



Tyler, Kylee, Max,  
and Macy Vreugdenhill



Deb Wilken



Ray, Kristin, Eddie, Walter,  
and Evelyn Winchester

# CALLED TO SERVE

## WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE

*Get involved | Volunteer | Ministry Opportunities*

Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities; but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. | 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

*Please prayerfully consider how you would like to share your time and talents as a member of the Body of Christ at First Lutheran*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Worship Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday 6pm \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday 8:45am \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday 11am



### CARE & GROWTH TEAM

- Sunday School Teacher or Sub
- VBS Helper
- FROG Helper (teacher/sub/games)
- FLY (First Lutheran Youth) Volunteer
- Confirmation Small Group Leader or Sub
- Serve on the Care & Growth Team
- Feeding the Flock Helper
- Special Event Kitchen Helper



### PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Indoor Maintenance & Repair
- Outdoor Maintenance & Repair
- Snow Removal
- Tidy Up Crew
- Serve on Property & Mgt. Team

### IMAGING & TECHNOLOGY TEAM

- Media Booth Volunteer (Sound, Video, Powerpoint)
- Photography, Social Media
- Serve on Imaging & Technology Team



FIRST LUTHERAN  
Church of Kearney

# CALLED TO SERVE



## HOSPITALITY & SERVICE

- Bringing Communion to individuals who are homebound
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Nursery Volunteer
- Stephen's Ministry Volunteer



## MISSION OUTREACH TEAM

- God's Work, Our Hands Volunteer
- Habitat for Humanity Volunteer
- Meals on Wheels Volunteer
- Jubilee Center Volunteer
- Serve on the Mission Outreach Team



## MUSIC

- Chancel Choir
- Praise Team
- Chancel Bells (adults)
- Praiser Bells (kids 3-8 grade)
- Instrumentalist
- Accompanist
- Soloist



## WITNESS & MEMBERS TEAM

- Serve on Witness & Members Team



## WORSHIP LIFE TEAM

- Assisting Minister
- Lector
- Communion Assistant
- Bread Baker
- Usher / Greeter
- Laundering Acolyte/Asst Minister Albs
- Altar Guild
- Sunday Morning Coffee Host
- Serve on Worship Life Team

## Other Areas to Serve:

- Clean/organize Pew Racks
- Organize Children's "Busy Bags"
- Crochet Prayer Squares
- Lawn Care: Pull weeds/pick up branches
- Deliver Jubilee food pantry items

*Ask not what the church can do for you, but what can you do for the church. Simply pick one thing. Pick up a form from the Welcome Station Rack.*



**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
Church of Kearney

[firstlutherankearney.org](http://firstlutherankearney.org)

**Growing in God's Grace, Reflecting Christ's Love, and Living in the Spirit**

## WORSHIP THEMES

MARCH 1, 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
GENESIS 12:1-4a; PSALM 121; ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17; JOHN 3:1-17

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font, we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism, God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

MARCH 8, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
EXODUS 17:1-7; PSALM 95; ROMANS 5:1-11; JOHN 4:5-42

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal – offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

MARCH 15, 2026  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
1 SAMUEL 16:1-13; PSALM 23; EPHESIANS 5:8-15; JOHN 9:1-41

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

MARCH 22, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
EZEKIEL 37:1-14; PSALM 130; ROMANS 8:6-11; JOHN 11:1-45

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

MARCH 29, 2026  
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION  
PALM SUNDAY  
MATTHEW 21:1-11; ISAIAH 50:4-9a; PSALM 31:9-16; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; MATTHEW 26:14-27:66; MATTHEW 27:11-54

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ; but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

## FINANCIALS:

JANUARY FINANCE REPORT			
<b>Ministry Budget:</b>	Jan 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 56,114	\$ 464,321	\$441,527
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (62,664)	\$(500,960)	\$(477,085)
Total 2025-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
<b>Facilities Budget:</b>	Jan 2025	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 4,190	\$ 40,039	\$40,433
Expenditures	\$ (1,135)	\$ (24,150)	\$ (19,511)
Total 2025-2026 Facilities Budget: \$28,100			

### OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Thank you to those who regularly use 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're unable to contribute without using the envelopes, please write your offering envelope number on your check. This will enable us to record your contributions accurately. Any loose checks that are received without an envelope number noted might not be reflected on your contribution statement.

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

If you are not receiving offering envelopes, please contact Stacy in the church office.

If you have any questions or need assistance using the electronic giving options, please contact Stacy Seim in the church office:

(308)237-5544 or [SSeim@FirstLutheranKearney.org](mailto:SSeim@FirstLutheranKearney.org)

Donate On-line

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

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



# 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**

## March Events

- Sat/Sun Feb 28/Mar 1  
Sun  
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
9:50 am - Sunday School with Pastor Rick | Centennial Hall  
2:00 pm - Brookestone Gardens Worship Service
- Wed/Mar 4  
5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class  
6:30 pm Lenten Service
- Sat/Sun Mar 7/8  
Sun  
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
9:50 am - Sunday School with Pastor Rick | Centennial Hall
- Wed/Mar 11  
5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class  
6:30 pm Lenten Service
- Thurs/Mar 12  
Jubilee Meal - Doors open at 5pm, meal served at 5:30
- Sat/Sun Mar 14/15  
Sun  
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
9:50 am - Sunday School with Pastor Rick | Centennial Hall
- Wed/Mar 18  
5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class  
6:30 pm Lenten Service
- Sat/Sun Mar 21/22  
Sun  
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
9:50 am - Sunday School with Pastor Rick | Centennial Hall
- Wed/Mar 25  
5:30 pm Feeding the Flock: 5:45 pm First Communion Class  
6:30 pm Lenten Service
- Thurs/Mar 26  
Jubilee Meal - Doors open at 5pm, meal served at 5:30
- Sat/Sun Mar 28/29  
Sun  
Palm Sunday - Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
9:50 am - Sunday School with Pastor Rick | Centennial Hall

## April Events

- Thur/Apr 2  
5:45 pm - First Communion Pictures  
6:30 pm Service - Maundy Thursday Service with First Communion  
Reception to follow service in Centennial Hall for everyone.
- Fri/Apr 3  
6:30 pm Service - Good Friday Service
- Sat/Apr 4  
6:00 pm Service - Holy Saturday Service
- Sun/Apr 5  
Sun  
7:00 am, 8:45 am, 11:00 am - Easter Services  
2:00 pm Brookestone Gardens Worship Service
- Sat/Sun Apr 11/12  
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
Easter Cantata at all services
- Sat/Sun Apr 18/19  
Sat/Apr 18  
Sun/Apr 19  
Worship Sat. 6 pm | Sun. 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
10:00 am - Women of ELCA Spring Fling - Centennial Hall  
3:00 pm Natalie & Friends Concert

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

**PASTORS:**

**Pastor Rick Carlson**

Co-Lead Pastor

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**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

Co-Lead Pastor

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**STAFF:**

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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



**2025-2026 OFFICERS**

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President Elect:

Sherryl Wilke 308-390-1346

Secretary:

Stacy Darveau 308-627-5546

Treasurer:

Jo Smallcomb 308-234-3053

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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.