

# THE JUNE MESSENGER

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

## Your Voice Matters!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Budget Meeting and Annual Congregational Meeting! These gatherings are more than just meetings – they are opportunities for us, as a church family, to dream, plan, and prepare for the year ahead together.

At the Budget Meeting, we'll discuss how God is leading us in ministry and how we can wisely steward the resources He has provided. Your input and ideas are valuable as we shape the ministry priorities and budget for the coming year.

During the Annual Congregational Meeting, we will celebrate what God has done this past year, look ahead with excitement, and vote on leadership for the next year. This is an important time for every member to have a voice in the direction and future of our church. We encourage everyone to attend, ask questions, share ideas, and be part of the conversation.

**Strong churches are built when people come together with unity, vision, and prayer.**

<h1>BUDGET FORUM</h1> <p>SUNDAY   JUNE 14, 2026 CENTENNIAL HALL TIME: 10:45AM</p>	<p>Plan to attend the budget forum.</p> <p>The 2026/2027 financial plan will be discussed and congregational input is needed!</p>
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<h2>Annual Congregational Meeting</h2>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup></li><li>• 11:00 am</li><li>• Centennial Hall</li></ul> <p>All church members are asked to attend. We will vote on elected officials, the budget, and celebrate the congregation's activities.</p>
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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...



- Prayers for comfort and peace for Nancy McKillip and family on the death of Amy Woodside.

## Prayers of joy and thanksgiving for...

- Prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the birth of Elena Hobbs, daughter of Alexis and Nick Hobbs.

## MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

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



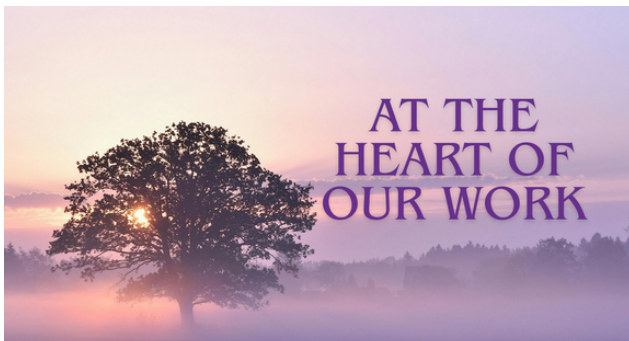
**Dish Cloths  
and  
Hand Towels**



Please set items on the sharing shelf in the narthex.



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



This has been a season of momentum, and we'd like to recognize what this community has made possible.

We are excited to share that together, we have raised \$271,000 for the S.A.F.E. Tomorrow Campaign exceeding our \$250,000 goal.

We have secured a new shelter location and the funds raised will help with renovations, safety, and security to complete the space. We are looking forward to welcoming clients into a space designed for safety, dignity, and healing. That is because of you. Thank you.

This year also introduced something new that we are proud of and excited to share: **A S.A.F.E. TABLE: Recipes for a Fresh Start**. A collection of recipes that is a reflection of our community, and people coming together to create something useful and lasting.

What makes this piece especially meaningful is where these cookbooks will go. As clients leave shelter and step into what's next, they'll take one with them, a small but tangible reminder that they are supported, that they are not

alone, and that a community stands behind them. These cookbooks are now available for purchase at The S.A.F.E. Center for \$20. You can stop by our front desk Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AVAILABLE NOW

A S.A.F.E. TABLE  
Recipes for a Fresh Start

**\$20**  
PER BOOK

Every purchase helps create a safe place for survivors.

The S.A.F.E. Center  
620 E 25th St, Suite 14  
Kearney, NE 68847

CASH, CHECK  
OR CREDIT CARD

## MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

### Jubilee Center updates

THANK YOU to everyone who took the message "Stuff the Cart" seriously and week after week brought items in for the Jubilee Center Food Pantry. In this economy the need continues and we at Jubilee Center are grateful for your continued support. We also wish to thank Todd Athy for bringing the donations to the Food Pantry.

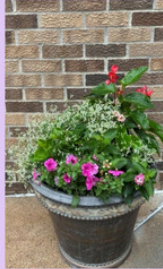
This summer there will be three  
SUMMER FUN SATURDAYS:  
June 13th Hot Dogs and Carnival Games  
July 11th Hot Wheels Rally  
August 8th Bubble Friendly Day

Details will be coming.  
There will also be a Summer Reading Fun project.  
Look for details later on the bulletin board by the northwest entrance.



# Thank You!

Thank you  
Elyria Gardens  
for  
donating the  
beautiful planters!



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

KEARNEY/BUFFALO  
COUNTY CASA

*Thank You*

*Dear First Lutheran Church,*

*Thank You so much for your generous donation to Kearney/ Buffalo County CASA. We are truly thankful, grateful, and blessed for your support. With your donation, we will be able to recruit, screen, train, and support volunteers as they advocate for abused and neglected children in Kearney and Buffalo County. Our work would not be possible without your support!*

*Thank You!*

*Margot Lengle Ransen*  
*Jodi Richards*      *Tamara Ransen*



**CAMPUS  
LUTHERAN**

*Dear First Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your  
generous donation and continuous  
support. Helping at the Jubilee  
meal and getting to know the  
high schoolers has been a treat!  
Thank you so much!*

*Sincerely,*

*Campus Lutheran Students*

## MISSION OUTREACH



Hello everyone,

It's hard to believe another week has gone by, as they say time flies when you are having fun or pouring concrete. I believe we have all the concrete poured for Heather's house and the garden shed on the next one.

We had a great group from Eaton help get the forms and sand put in along Ave. M. The list of things we will be working on seems to be getting bigger instead smaller: Installing interior doors, possibly starting with molding and putting closet shelving in the yellow house.

We have windows for the next home so as they get installed we will also be able to start putting on more siding. Tep and company will be putting up another garden shed.

The Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity is looking to build 45 new homes in 15 years for the community on land they acquired back in 2024. Located on the east side of the city, the land was donated to Habitat for Humanity last summer. The donor says he has a personal connection to the nonprofit organization. "I had a sister that they built a habitat home, and they still occupy it today," Bart Langenberg, KAHFH land donor and American Auto president, said. "I feel the business that we're in, we deal with a group of people that often need help because we finance vehicles and so on and so forth, and so the habitat program is based upon the same as American Auto."

"So, at Habitat we do make the homes affordable for the homeowners," Patrick Waltemath, KAHFH president, said. "We cater to the lower income bracket of the community."



**August 15th is First Lutheran Day at Habitat for Humanity**

# SPOTLIGHT

## SPOTLIGHT ON PRAYER SHAWLS AND PRAYER SQUARES

**Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares are used to create a physical and spiritual space during prayer. They offer comfort and a tangible reminder of God's love.**

**Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares are made by crafters in our congregation. If you have knitting or crochet experience and would like to assist with making shawls or squares, the church office has patterns for knit and crochet projects.**

**Why Prayer Squares?**

**It is easy to carry a Prayer Square with you! Squares can be used by anyone for comfort and encouragement, and as a reminder that God is always with you!**

**How can I obtain a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Square? The church office is happy to assist you in retrieving shawls and squares.**

**Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares are available for anyone in need. Someone "in need" can be a person going through a difficult time: undergoing medical procedures, experiencing loss, in times of stress, or facing/recovering from serious illness. Shawls and squares can also be given in times of happiness.**

## WOMEN'S ELCA



### **BLESSING FROM WELCA FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (FLC)**

**The FLC Women's ELCA Board Meeting** - will be on June 18, 2026, at 5:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall with a Potluck dinner.

**Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Board** held The Spring Gathering - Southern Prairie Conference on May 2, 2026, in Minden at Bethany Lutheran. Theme "Together in Christ" based on Thessalonians 5:11.

Welcome & Introductions by Nancy Hinrichs- song & scripture PMA Julie Schmidt. Donna Binderup Bible Study/Craft Session - beautiful decorations!

**Daniel Buller, Executive Director of Crossroads** explained his early years in mission work and how his family was a part of the programs in his Missions.

Crossroads clients/families needing help are allowed three (3) days and can leave or be granted a long-term stay. The program teaches them how to get employment, handle toxic situations and promote training. The client/families can be approved for transitional living facilities and helped to get a job and home. Case management helps with schools, and low-income assistance. The Mission helps provide transportation. Kearney has a 42-bed facility and has 15 transitional apartments. Missions in Grand Island, Broken Bow, Holdrege and 20 bed Lexington facility soon. Great program and Missions.

**Deb Miller, Women's ELCA President** - 6 generations of farmers over 140 years. Her career was in banking and dietician.

Reminder- **JULY 16-19,2026 - TRIENNIAL National in Des Moines, Iowa.**

**SAVE TO SERVE - Midland University, Fremont, NE - August 14-16, 2026.** Registration is due August 1, 2026. See FLC Women's ELCA bulletin board, Or [tinyurl.com/nebraskawelca](http://tinyurl.com/nebraskawelca)

**Business Meeting**- Kim Roland thanked all on Tangible Goods - Split between Speakers. Gloria Circle: 2 -Pkg 24 roll toilet paper, hand sanitizer, soaps, sponges, cleaning products, detergents - cart filled.

cont'd.

## WOMEN'S ELCA



Election of Officers & Host Church 2027 delayed pending a May 7th meeting.

**Brenda Rodriguez, Shelter Manager and Advocate at Safe Center**

**Kearney** spoke on ways they help clients in abusive, homeless, or emergency drop off situations. Kearney Shelter opened in 1978.

October 2025 the Safe House burned down. Relocated/renovated it's set to open end of May. For security purposes clients are picked up a few blocks away. Cameras are installed. Babies and family members up to age 19 can stay with adults. The Safe Center offers training to bars and restaurants to identify abuse victims.

UNK has Safe Center staff training on dating violence and healthy dating.

--Judy Workman, President

Pictures of Women's ELCA event - 5/22



# EVENTS

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SATURDAYS – 6:00PM**  
**SUNDAYS – 9:45AM**



Summer Schedule ends August 30<sup>th</sup> with  
Worship in the Park at 11am.  
On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> we will return  
to 8:45am and 11am services.



Summer Worship Schedule  
has started!

## Sunday Ride Ministry



Do you need a ride to church this summer? We are offering  
rides the first and third Sundays beginning June 7th.  
Please email: Sarah Schweitzer at:  
[Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org](mailto:Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org)  
or call the office at : 308-237-5544

Need a ride to church this  
summer? Contact us!

## BUDGET FORUM

SUNDAY | JUNE 14, 2026  
CENTENNIAL HALL  
TIME: 10:45AM

Plan to attend the  
budget forum.

The 2026/2027  
financial plan will  
be discussed and  
congregational  
input is needed!

## Your Voice Matters!

Mark your calendars for our  
upcoming Budget Meeting  
and Annual Congregational  
Meeting! These gatherings  
are more than just meetings  
– they are opportunities for  
us, as a church family, to  
dream, plan, and prepare for  
the year ahead together.

## Annual Congregational Meeting



- Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>
- 11:00 am
- Centennial Hall

All church members are asked to attend. We will vote on  
elected officials, the budget, and celebrate the  
congregation's activities.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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

### June Volunteer of the Month: Stacy Bean



***Stacy has gifted First Lutheran Church in several areas, most recently filling in as musician during services this spring when we had gaps.***

#### Areas Stacy Serves:

- Taught Bible lessons for Vacation Bible School
- Coordinated Feeding the Flock in its early stages
- Served as Sunday School Coordinator
- Helped refresh the Military Family Wall
- Voluntarily leads worship music for the 11:00am service during the Program Year and coordinates Sound Offering.
- And many more!

Thank you for stepping up to serve our church family by playing the piano and keyboard during several worship services when we were without a musician.

Your willingness, flexibility, and heart for worship helped lead our congregation with grace and encouragement.

We are so grateful for your faithful service!

## COMMITTEE TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Have you noticed the Ministry Teams listed on our website? Care and Growth, Imaging and Technology, Mission Outreach, Property & Management, Stewardship, Witness and Members, Worship Life, Congregational Council, Personnel Team, Memorials Committee, Preschool Board, Mutual Ministry Team, Caring and Sharing Team, Nominating Committee, and Endowment Committee.

### **What Team will you serve on?**

#### **Memorials Committee**

In order to honor loved ones when monetary donations of memorials or honorarium are given; there shall be a Memorial Committee. The committee will assist these donors with suggestion of appropriate uses of their donations. The Memorials Committee will include all standing committees input regarding requests, which will then be reviewed for approval by the Current Memorials Committee Members:

The current committee consists of: Myron Riddle; Jen Puls and Lisa Parish.

#### **Stewardship Team**

This congregation shall endeavor to be responsible stewards over all with which God has blessed its members. This team shall provide leadership and organizational structure to maintain effective motives and practices of stewardship of all members of the congregation. This team shall be responsible for, but not limited to the following areas of ministry: devising means to encourage generous giving to the work of the church at home, in the Nebraska Synod, through the church-wide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and through the world; encourage members to give generously of their time and talents in order to provide the personnel for programs and activities of this congregation and acknowledge such and provide for an on-going year-round stewardship program.

Current Stewardship Team Members: Randy Hinrichs; Scott Darveau; Pastor Rick Carlson; Logan Ellis; CJ Sabah; Annette Schwartz; Mark Kottmeyer.

Please reach out to a team member or contact the church office to join any committee!

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Congratulations to the 2026 Confirmation Students on their Affirmation of Baptism



Back Row: Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson, Hendrex Cochran, Kade Fuller, Cole Banzhaf, Ethan Johannesen, and Pastor Rick Carlson  
Front Row: Madden Dutcher, Henry Fletcher, Blake Benson, Drew Nielsen, Bentley Martin, Madeline Sikes, and Teagan Schweitzer



The Annual Confirmation Bowling night was a blast!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Calling all fun-loving volunteers!** 

Vacation Bible School is one of the most exciting weeks of the summer, and we'd love for YOU to be part of it! Help with games, crafts, snacks, music, decorating, group leaders, or behind-the-scenes support.

There's a spot for every talent and every energy level! Come make memories, build faith, and help kids experience the love of Jesus in a BIG way this summer

Snowball Mountain Challenge invites kids to an exciting winter sports event where they become Challengers in an exciting winter sports event: gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. As children face their challenges and discover their strength in God, you'll hear them say, "Challenge accepted – with God I am strong!"

Our campers will experience a fun, welcoming, high-energy VBS through bible lessons, music, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and snacks. REGISTER TODAY!



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JULY 13 – 16 & 19**

**WEEKDAYS 6PM – 8PM**  
**CHECK-IN & MEAL 5:15–5:50PM**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19 9:45AM**  
**VBS TAKE-OVER; LUNCH & PARTY AFTER**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH KEARNEY**



**REGISTER VOLUNTEER**



Direct links to register can be found at:  
[FirstLutheranKearney.org](http://FirstLutheranKearney.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY - FLY



FLY has closed out a wonderful year of ministry! We enjoyed some good ministry and fellowship through helping the Safe Center and enjoying a round of bowling at the Big Apple. We concluded our summer activities with our Lock-In. It was full of food, activities, and little sleep! We hope to continue hosting events for our church and community in our newly revised basement area. We want to thank all of those who made this event possible. We are excited for what the next year will bring. We will be preparing for next the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. We are proud to represent our church to the community of Kearney, and the wider community of the Lutheran Church.

We will see you back in August!

Pastor Logan Ellis

# PRESCHOOL

## Hello Church Family!

The month of May was celebrating how God made families and our students. They made their mom and dad presents for their day in May and June. We also finished our creation book! We reviewed letters, numbers, counting, and they even can do a story problem with manipulatives! They have at least 29+ books in their book boxes to read! Pre-K had over 1,010 books read to them and now their vocabulary is huge!

The 3 - 4 year olds had a blast learning about the lifecycle of the butterfly and their 5 senses. They also made lovely mother's and father's day cards. The art they were doing is so adorable!

These kiddos can count far, know all or almost all of their upper case and lowercase letters, know at least numbers from 0-20, know what a penny, nickel, dime and quarter look like, what each is worth and they have begun to understand telling time on an analog clock. They can rhyme, sound words out, write letters, draw a bunch of new things, cut well with scissors and have seen how to make sentences this year!

It is so impressive how much they have grown! I am excited for their futures! I know they all are going to do great big things and knowing that God is with them to help them at all times, gives them the courage to face those tough times and thank God for those good times! They are such a blessing and we will miss them terribly!

Our graduations were May 14<sup>th</sup> for the 3 - 4 Year Old Class at 11:15am and 6:30pm for Pre-K. We sang songs, passed out certificates, keepsakes and a goodie bag for each child. We played on the playground, danced around with our ribbons and had fun. We also enjoyed ice-pops and bottles of water! It has been an amazing year and I won't forget these memories we have made with these wonderful children.



# PreSchool

We are full in the 3 - 4 Year Old Class and have a few openings in the Pre-K class! Please spread the word about our amazing school!

Lastly, we want to thank you, church family, for your devotion to helping our preschool! We can not thank you enough for all your help with our scholarship fund and help around our facility! You helped us raise over \$4,400 dollars this year!!! We are so blessed to be surrounded by such caring people!

We thanked Marissa at their graduation ceremony for her 2 years of dedication to this preschool in the 3 - 4 Year Old Classroom. We were so impressed with Marissa's reliability, energetic ideas and her fun personality! Those kiddos loved her! She will be missed.

God's blessings,  
Mrs. Amanda, Ms. Marissa, and Mrs. Sonya



## FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Upon the recommendation of the Property and Management Team, the Council approved a motion to request \$10,000 of Memorial funds which will be used as starter money for the digital sign project.

A request from the Endowment Committee for \$30,000 to fund the intern's salary and related expenses was also approved.

The Council approved the Annual Congregational meeting agenda for June 28, 2026.

The Council approved the submission of a proposed Constitutional Amendment which will be presented at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 29, 2026. This amendment is related to article C12.05 whereby the Congregation Council would be able to enter into contracts up to \$25,000 (up from the current \$10,000 limit) for items not included in the budget.

A second part of the Constitutional Amendment is as follows: “The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$10,000 (an increase from the current \$5,000 amount) in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in collaboration with the synod and churchwide organization.”

cont'd.

## FROM THE COUNCIL

Increased costs and rising inflation are the reasons for the proposed changes.

Our Congregation has been blessed financially this past year as we have experienced a 4.3% increase (through April) in giving over last year. Expenditures have risen by 5.4% over last year, reflecting the higher costs for insurance, utilities and the fact that we are now fully staffed. The net result is that we have expended \$54,525 more that we have received through April. The Council is requesting you prayerfully consider, to the extent you are able, making an additional contribution to the Church so that we can finish this fiscal year strong by eliminating this deficit.

Our Capital Campaign has been very successful. As we are nearing the end of the three-year pledge period, if you have not completed your pledge and are planning to do so, we would request that you send your final check for the Campaign as soon as possible.

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

# FINANCIALS:

APRIL FINANCE REPORT			
<b>Ministry Budget:</b>	APR 2026	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 56,398	\$ 638,669	\$ 650,020
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (61,065)	\$ (720,968)	\$ (686,167)
Total 2026-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
<b>Facilities Budget:</b>	APR 2026	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 6,590	\$ 49,379	\$ 55,606
Expenditures	\$ (356)	\$ (27,839)	\$ (24,616)
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 or recurring donation.

- Online: Visit [FirstLutheranKearney.org](http://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.



## VANCO App Update:

Beginning on May 26, 2026, mobile app users may be prompted to update their app to continue accessing all features and functionality. To help ensure a smooth experience, we recommend communicating this update to your app users any time after May 26, 2026.

This update is designed to improve overall performance, security, and reliability for all users. Most users will simply need to download the latest version of the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store when prompted.

*As the Capital Campaign draws to a close, I encourage everyone to finalize your pledge towards the campaign. If you would like to know the status of your giving to the Capital Campaign please reach out to me at [sseim@firstlutherankearney.org](mailto:sseim@firstlutherankearney.org) or by calling the church office. Thank you for your generosity to First Lutheran!*

Stacy Seim  
Bookkeeper  
308.237.5544



## SCRIPTURE

### **JUNE 7, 2026 | TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

HOSEA 5:15-6:6; PSALM 50:7-15; ROMANS 4:13-25; MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26;  
GENESIS 12:1-9; PSALM 33:1-12

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinner – the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew, the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day, we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

### **JUNE 14, 2026 | TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

EXODUS 19:2-8a; PSALM 100; ROMANS 5:1-8; MATTHEW 9:35-10:8 [10:9-23];  
GENESIS 18:1-15 [21:1-7]; PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

### **JUNE 21, 2026 | TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

JEREMIAH 20:7-13; PSALM 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18; ROMANS 6:1b-11; MATTHEW 10:24-39; GENESIS 21:8-21; PSALM 86:1-10, 16-17

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

### **JUNE 28, 2026 | TIME AFTER PENTECOST**

JEREMIAH 28:5-9; PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18; ROMANS 6:12-23; MATTHEW 10:4-42;  
GENESIS 22:1-14; PSALM 13

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. The baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Please review the calendar at [FirstLutheranKearney.org](http://FirstLutheranKearney.org) for updates.

### JUNE 2026 Calendar

Sat/Sun June 6/7 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am  
Laying on of Hands during all services  
Brookestone Garden Worship at 2:00pm  
Confirmation Parent & Confirmand meeting : Sunday, 12noon  
Confirmation Camp June 7 – 12th

Sat/Sun June 13/14 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am  
Sun June 14th – **Budget Forum** at 10:45am in Centennial Hall

Sat/Sun June 20/21 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am  
Laying on of Hands during all services

Sat/Sun June 27/28 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am  
**Annual Meeting** at 11:00am in Centennial Hall

### JULY 2026 Calendar

Sat/Sun - July 4/5 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am  
Laying on of Hands during all services

Sat/Sun July 11/12 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am

Mon/Thurs. July 13-16 Vacation Bible School  
6:00pm – 8:00pm nightly

Sat/Sun - July 18/19 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am  
Laying on of Hands during all services  
VBS Takeover during Sunday service.

Sat/Sun - July 25/26 – Worship at 6 pm and 9:45am

**Church Office** [office@firstlutheran Kearney.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran Kearney.org) 308.237.5544

**PASTORS:**

**Pastor Rick Carlson**

*Co-Lead Pastor*

**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

*Co-Lead Pastor*

**STAFF:**

**Kandy Bacon**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Amy Behrhorst**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Kathy Benne**

*Director of Communications and Events*

**Pastor Logan Ellis**

*Director of Engagement: Youth, Congregation and Community*

**Amanda Lewis**

*Preschool Director*

**Jen Puls**

*Records Management*

**Natalie Radcliffe**

*Music Coordinator*

**Sarah Schweitzer**

*Volunteer Ministry Coordinator*

**Stacy Seim**

*Bookkeeper*

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

*President*

PJ Bartels

*Vice President*

Scott Darveau

*Treasurer*

Lisa Parish

*Secretary*

Deb Schauer

**Council Members:**

Christine Fisher

Jay Kuecker

Tyler Schwartz

Shirley Smalley

Terry Volker

Pastor Michelle

Pastor Rick

Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

2025-2026 OFFICERS

President: Judy Workman

President Elect: Sherryl Wilke

Secretary: Stacy Darveau

Treasurer: Jo Smallcomb

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](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 a hard copy of "The Messenger" from the welcome station, instead of it being mailed, please call or email the church office. *Mailings generally take up to two weeks for delivery.*