

THE MAY MESSENGER

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

EASTER HAS JUST BEGUN

Easter is not a single day, but a season of grace that unfolds in the life of the Church.

From the light of the Easter Vigil, the faithful are sent forth to live the joy of the Resurrection—carrying Christ’s victory into the world, where hope is needed most.

For fifty days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, the faithful are invited to live the joy of the Resurrection and carry Christ’s victory into a world where hope is most needed.



TABLE OF CONTENTS AND RESOURCES

Inside this issue:

EASTER 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS,
RESOURCES & PRAYERS 2
MISSION OUTREACH 3-5
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF 7
WOMEN'S ELCA 7
EVENTS - 8
STEWARDSHIP - 9
VOLUNTEER INFO - 10
COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT - 11
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 12-14
FLY YOUTH MINISTRY 15
MUSIC MINISTRY 16-17
COUNCIL 18
PRESCHOOL 19-20
FINANCES 21
CALENDAR 22
LEADERSHIP 23

Prayer Ventures for this month can be found:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>
These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world.

RESOURCES

**ELCA: www.elca.org
800-638-3522**

**Nebraska Synod: www.nebraskasynod.org
402-896-5311**

**Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry:
www.nelcm.com 402-391-1144**

**Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries:
www.nlom.org 402-944-2544**

**Lutheran World Relief: www.lwr.org
800-597-5972**

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

Prayers of Comfort and Peace for...



- The family of Glenn "Bud" Spangsberg on his death.
- Joe & Heidi Straka on the death of Joe's mother, Catherine Straka.
- Tanner & Whitley Ellingson & family on the death of Whitley's grandmother, Catherine Straka.
- The family and friends of Maxine Grassmeyer on her death.
- Lorene Krenke on the death of her husband, LaVern.

MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

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



- **Laundry Products:**
- *Laundry Detergent*
- *Fabric Softener Sheets*
- *Laundry Baskets*



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

Because of you, we've reached something big.

Our S.A.F.E. Tomorrow Campaign is complete, and a new shelter is becoming a reality. Soon, survivors will walk into a space that is safe, steady, and ready for them.

This cookbook is part of that story.

A S.A.F.E. Table: Recipes for a Fresh Start was created by this community. Every recipe is a reminder that care can look like something simple. Something shared.

Something that helps people begin again.

And when a survivor leaves our shelter, they will take one of these cookbooks with them, a gift from this community. A small, tangible reminder that they are supported, that they are not alone, and that a fresh start is possible.

Cookbooks are available now for \$20 at The S.A.F.E. Center.

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.

This cookbook was lovingly created by friends, supporters, and neighbors of The S.A.F.E. Center - a place where survivors of violence find safety, support, and a fresh start. These recipes are our way of saying:

*You are not alone.
You are home.*

Learn more about The S.A.F.E. Center at safecenter.org

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

CASH, CHECK
OR CREDIT CARD

Thank You!



PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Envelope Fundraiser: \$2,198
Pizza Ranch Fundraiser: \$615.75
Total: \$2,813.75

Proceeds will go towards the Scholarship Fund.
THANK YOU!!

**BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR
A LIFETIME OF LEARNING**

The graphic features a yellow bee in the top left, a paper airplane with three children in the top right, and five diverse children holding hands in the center. The background is a green landscape with trees and hills.



**Our Lenten Offering totals to the
Lexington Food Bank were:
\$2,203.00!**

thank you

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
THROUGH
DONATIONS**

The graphic shows a pair of hands holding a red heart. The background is yellow with faint silhouettes of people.



Van Drivers needed!



First Lutheran wants to offer rides to church members a couple of Sunday mornings a month, but the first step is to find drivers.

Please contact us if you're able to help!

email: Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org
Call the office at : 308-237-5544

The graphic features a white van illustration in the center. The background is light green.

MISSION OUTREACH



We had another week of steady progress and teamwork last week!

During the week, volunteers installed blueboard, continued structural work, and cleaned up the interior of Cazbi's house #104. Ken and Joyce also got the first coat of paint on Heather's garden shed, while city crews handled seeding and site cleanup nearby.

On Saturday, volunteers stayed out of the cold weather by painting shelves, prepping materials, and getting ready for upcoming builds inside the warehouse.

At the site, volunteer crews made great progress on Cazbi's house by finishing roofing sheets, installing fascia boards, and adding cement board around the foundation. Work continued at Heather's house #103 as well with interior prep and carpet tack strips installed. Painters wrapped up the day with a third coat of bright yellow on Heather's home - bringing in plenty of happy energy to wrap up the weekend!

August 15th is First Lutheran Day at Habitat for Humanity



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Last year, First Lutheran did a great job of helping to gather items for 30 baby care kits. It's time to start thinking about gathering items for kits for this year. Maybe you're cleaning out closets, or you like going to garage sales. Babies are a blessing, but bringing a baby into the world can also be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Keeping a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable can take a lot of resources. Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits provide the basics a family needs to care for their newest member and introduce them to the world with pride.



Items needed are:

Size 6 months - 24 months

Lightweight t-shirts (*no onsies*)

Receiving blankets

Socks Baby caps

Jacket/sweater/sweatshirt with a hood

Long & short sleeved gowns/sleepers (*no feet*)

Lightweight pants can be used for the sleeper

Items need to be NEW or in "pristine" condition.

THANK YOU

for your unwavering generosity!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Total 2025 Giving to Lutheran World Relief:

\$17,500.00

In 2025, your faithful compassion restored hope, rebuilt lives and rekindled dreams. Near and far, **YOUR LOVE** surrounded the hardest-to-reach, reminding them of God's grace.

Thank you for your dedicated ministry
and Christ-like service to others.

Rev. Lisa Kipp

Director, Congregational Engagement



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

WOMEN'S ELCA



SPRING CELEBRATION BRUNCH APRIL 18, 2026 GOD'S BLESSINGS OF MARRIAGE PAST & PRESENT

Bridget Von Seggern, Wedding Coordinator, for First Lutheran Church kicked off the morning with an explanation of her role. She covered how she helps couples determine what works best for them and how she can help plan the type of wedding service and reception they want. She explained her services are at the choice of the couple and is paid by them.

The brunch was amazing thanks to the women of First Lutheran Church bringing in all kinds of wonderful casseroles, fruit dishes, muffins, rolls, etc.

There was lots for all to enjoy and ended with a Wedding Cake Tasting, of Dark Chocolate, Wedding White, and Root Beer cakes. The cakes included a gluten free option made by **First Lutheran Church Preschool Cook, Emily Bacon** – Thanks Emily!

The **Cabriolet Barbershop Quartet** entertained us with upbeat music – three tunes and encore applauded by the attendees. Fun and wonderful!

Hello Beautiful Owner, Megan Goeke, setup a display of gowns (see below) and spoke about the options for today's brides. A full selection is available for Mother and Grandmothers at *Hello Beautiful*. Prom dresses are a part of their inventory.

Wedding Dress Display - Dresses shown were explained by members or friends that brought in dresses. Everything from twins sharing their dress on two different dates; Shoes from the early 1900's worn by great grandmother; dress made from material from Paris; wedding suit made in 1947 (nearly 80 years old), and daughter made her dress in 1971, gowns with beautiful trains made, some bought in Kearney stores 1900 -2025.

Thanks for attending a great day of fellowship and sharing!

Reminder – Women's ELCA elections will be in June!



EVENTS

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS – 6:00PM

SUNDAYS – 9:45AM

schedule begins May 23

The **NEW** WORSHIP times begin May 23rd.

Saturday 6pm Service

ONE SUNDAY service: 9:45am



BUDGET FORUM

SUNDAY | JUNE 14, 2026
CENTENNIAL HALL
TIME: TBD

Plan to attend the budget forum.

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

Annual Congregational Meeting



- Sunday, June 28th
- 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Hello First Lutheran Family,

Our Stewardship group continues to share responses from our congregation in response to the following questions-

1. **Where do you see God's light shining in our congregation?**

- Answer- There are so many opportunities for people to find their place in the church through service, worship, and small groups.
- Answer- The church has supported my family through meals, prayers, and checking in on us. It has been a great blessing to be part of this special family!

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

- Answer- The media team is heroic keeping up our broadcast and streaming options and have services available to our members, no matter where they are. They have also reached out to people who struggle to access the service. They do a lot for our community and church.
- Answer- Our musicians and musical staff help elevate our worship through special music and Cantata services. We have so many talented church members that share their gift of music!

3. **Where do you hope to see the church in the next year?**

- Answer- A church that still maintains close connections between members, while having many opportunities to connect with the community.
- Answer- A church that continues to have wonderful volunteers and new volunteers for new perspectives.

We look forward to highlighting where God calls us to Embrace the Light. We want to thank all who have provided feedback, and all who are part of our congregation: you make our church shine with your presence and participation.



EMBRACING
the LIGHT

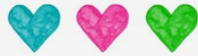
Stewardship Committee;

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

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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

May Volunteers of the Month:



*For every lesson
you've prepared,
the love of God
has been shared.*

- Sunday School Teachers
- F.R.O.G. Teachers
- Music Teachers
- Confirmation Leaders
- All Helpers and Subs!

*“Train children in the right way,
and when old, they will not stray.”- Proverbs 22:6*

Sunday School Teachers:

Bridget Von Seggern
Michelle Garth
Sarah Haack
Dana Karschner
Amy Behrhorst
Chris & Ashlea Denton
John Love
Duane Rohla

Music:

Amanda Lewis
Marissa Wright
Angela Wright

F.R.O.G. Teachers:

Bridget Von Seggern
Eve Shipp
Stacy Darveau
Blair Peterson

Games

Gordon & Stephanie Fehringer

Helpers and Substitutes

Monica Mueller
Gordon Fehringer
Ashlea Denton
Stacy Reece
Kacy VanSlyke
Megan Schmidt
Miranda Obermeier
Amy Sikes

Confirmation:

Large Group: Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson & Pastor Rick Carlson

Small Group: Jazzmyn Martin

Ashley Lewandowski
Chris Denton
Amy Behrhorst
Josh Sikes
Pastor Rick Carlson

*Thank you for sharing your time, faith, and gifts with our children
– you are planting seeds that will last a lifetime.*

COMMITTEE TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Can you list all the Ministry Teams at First Lutheran? 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 can you serve on?

Worship Life Team

This team's mission is to facilitate, support, evaluate and implement all aspects of worship, to the glory of God. Celebrating God's abiding presence and faithfulness, and moving towards God's promised fulfillment, this congregation shall seek to proclaim faithfully the love of God in Word and Sacrament. This team shall encourage and develop structures and programs which fulfill the worship needs of this congregation, both in acts of public worship and in private devotion. This team shall be responsible for, but not limited to the following areas of ministry: altar guild; paraments and banners; musicians and music needs; worship personnel including lectors, communion assistants, assisting ministers, acolytes, greeters, and ushers. The team shall also be responsible for books for worship and literature for personal devotion; care and maintenance of vestments, liturgical cloths and metal ware. They shall support worship and liturgy in the life and ministry of the Body of Christ; stewarding the liturgical treasure of the church in Word and Sacrament.

Imaging and Technology Team

This team exists to assess, provide, and implement technology in all its varied forms to enhance worship and Christian education; and to assist the congregation in communicating with each other and with the greater community. This team also consults with staff on the purchase of, and oversees the maintenance of, all computers and technology within the church facility.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

First Communion is an exciting time for an individual. As Lutherans, we believe that the bread and wine of Communion are also the body and blood of Christ. It is truly a mysterious moment to be reminded that these are God's gifts "given for you."

Our First Communion Class of 2026 received their first Holy Communion during our Maundy Thursday service after attending a five week class. Congratulations!

April 2, 2026



Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson, Noah Mullen, Walter Winchester, Dalton Todd, Finley Davis, Hayes Nielsen, Gabriel Schweitzer, Myles Brandt, and Pastor Rick Carlson

First Communion Class 2026

Congratulations to the 2026 Confirmation Class



Cole Banzhaf



Blake Benson



Hendrex Cochran



Madden Dutcher



Henry Fletcher



Kade Fuller



Ethan Johannesen



Bentley Martin



Drew Nielsen



Teagan Schweitzer



Madeline Sikes

The Confirmation Class will Affirm their Baptism on Sunday, May 3

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We had lots of fun at our End of Year Celebration for FROG! We are so thankful for a fantastic year with awesome kids, dedicated volunteers, and supportive families! We are excited for what God has in store for us this summer! We hope to see lots of these amazing kids over VBS!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE VBS 2026

JULY 13th - 16th & 19th

WEEKDAYS 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Check-In & Free-Will Donation Meal 5:15-5:50pm

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH 9:45AM WORSHIP SERVICE

VBS Takeover: 5th Lesson, Perform Songs, Party After

Get ready to turn this summer into an unforgettable adventure with Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS! With a unique winter theme, Snowball Mountain Challenge invites kids to an exciting winter sports event where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. Guided by Ollie the Arctic Seal, our Challengers will come to realize: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." With the strength God provides, we can share our gifts, be brave, give our all, pray, and hope. Join us at VBS this summer, where you'll hear our VBS Campers say, "Challenge accepted - with God I am strong."



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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 13 - 16 & 19

REGISTER VOLUNTEER



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH KEARNEY

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

YOUTH MINISTRY - FLY



FLY thanks our amazing church family for their support in our basement renovation project. By the end of the month, it will be complete! With the help of our local Scouting Troops, we have redesigned the basement with a Gathering Room, a Social Room,

and a meet-up area that provides a welcoming space for our guests, and our church members. Our last step to complete is removing unwanted items from the basement. It has been a great process of discernment and commitment. We hope you will be able to come on down for a look!

FLY has had a very busy month! It has felt like we are the “away team”, because we have traveled nearly every Wednesday this month. We visited two different youth groups as guests. We first visited Holy Cross for some lessons and activities, then at the end of the month First United Methodist's youth group hosted us. We hope to continue fostering connections and partnerships with other churches and youth groups! We assisted a congregation member in some housework, and our final Wednesday was at Yanney Park. It is hard to believe the end of the year is in sight! We still plan to meet a couple of times in May as we prepare for our Lock-In. We are excited to host this event and show off our church home to others. We appreciate your support as we continue to represent our church in the community.

We are also preparing for another important date: the ELCA Youth Gathering. This event happens once every three years. Last time we went to New Orleans, and this upcoming year we will be in Minneapolis. Much of our fundraisers help to support our youth group's attendance. We are excited to represent our church at the national level, not just the local level. Expect to hear more about this as the year progresses!
Pastor Logan Ellis



GRADUATES

Recognition of Graduates Class of 2026



- Recognition of Graduates will be at the beginning of the 8:45am service May 17th
- Wear your cap & gown if you'd like!
- You're free to leave after recognition.

Congrats!

K Kamyrn Benson

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Lincoln to study Elementary Education



K Anna Brandt

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

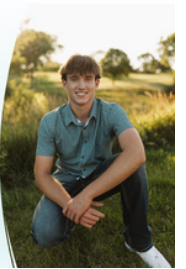
- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Lincoln to study Secondary Chemistry Education



K Blake Ernst

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend Southeast Community College in Lincoln to study Business



K Kyler Harter

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Lincoln to study Pre Law



Stars Abigail Issacson

- Graduating From: Kearney Catholic High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Kearney to study Business Administration



K Harper Lewandowski

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Kearney to study Public Health



K Trenton Mauler

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Military Service



K Giana Mueller

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

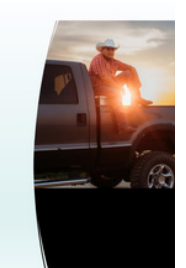
- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Kearney to study Pre-Veterinary



K Daniel Ovalle

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend Central Community College in Hastings for certification in Heavy Equipment Operations and CDL Driving License



Stars Ava Thoene

- Graduating From: Kearney Catholic High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of South Dakota to study Clinical Social Work



Haydn Thomsen

- Graduating from: Brady High School

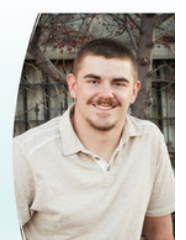
- Future plans: Attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology



K Zachary Wulf

- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Kearney to study Construction Management



K Kealy ZumBrunnen

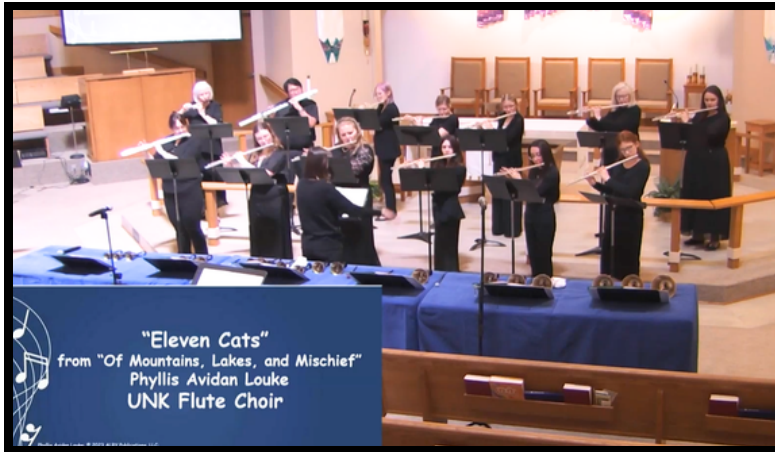
- Graduating From: Kearney High School

- Future Plans: Attend University of Nebraska at Kearney to study English



MUSIC MINISTRY

Did you miss these beautiful concerts?
Watch the recordings on our website:
Go to: FirstLutheranKearney.org
Click the "Watch Live" button.
Scroll down to "Watch past services".



Natalie & Friends
Concert



Cantata



**It's Time to Sign Up for
SUMMER MUSIC**

Middle school through age 99.
Provide special music for 6:00pm and/or
9:45am services during the summer.
Contact Natalie in the church office to
schedule a date.

FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings First Lutheran Congregation

Here is an update from your Church Council:

Pastor Rick presented eleven confirmation candidates to the Council for approval stating that they had completed their course work and have met the requirements to affirm their baptismal vows. The Council approved the candidates for confirmation.

The Council approved the proposed 2026-2027 Annual Budget request as submitted to the Council by the Budget Committee. The budget request reflects a 7.4% increase over the prior year's budget, due to increased costs for insurance and staff costs.

Discussion was held concerning an intern candidate presented to us by the Nebraska Synod. The candidate wishes to complete her pastoral studies, and upon completion, serve as an ordained minister in central Nebraska. She would serve as an intern beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027. The Council approved the intern position and has submitted a request for funding the \$30,000 cost to the endowment committee.

Yours in Christ,

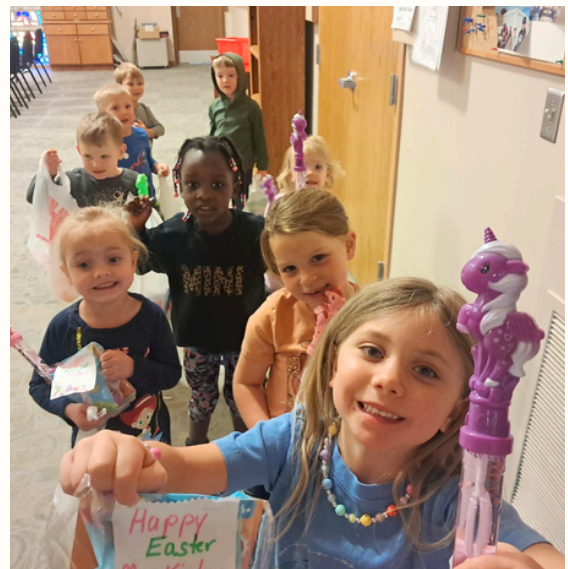
P. J. Bartels
Council President

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

Happy Spring & God's Blessings from the 3- & 4-Year-Old Class! 🌻

- April was full of fun and learning! We celebrated Easter by learning about Holy Week, enjoying an egg hunt, and making cotton ball bunnies.
- We explored springtime and weather:
 - Learned how April showers bring May flowers
 - Studied different types of weather
 - Made rain sticks and did a fun cloud science experiment
 - Enjoyed lots of sunshine and outdoor time
- We focused on caring for our Earth and how we can help keep it clean every day.
- We had a wonderful Family Fun Night at Pizza Ranch—thank you to everyone who joined us!
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were a great time to connect and celebrate growth.
- We ended the month learning about the butterfly life cycle:
 - We watched 5 Painted Lady caterpillars grow and transform
 - A hands-on experience the kids loved!
 - Read favorites like The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Very Impatient Caterpillar.

God's Blessings,
Ms. Marissa



Happy May! 🌸

Pre-K

- We kicked off April by planting seeds and caring for them, with extra soil available for continued hands-on fun in our planting center.
- Graduation songs are underway—it's coming up quickly!
- The kids loved our “rainy day” activity, using umbrellas and spray bottles as they “grew” like flowers.
- We celebrated Earth Day by learning how to care for our world and took a field trip to the Recycling Center on April 24. The children turned recyclables into crafts like pencil holders.
- Transportation week was a hit! The kids explored different inventions, practiced drawing vehicles, and enjoyed bringing remote-control toys for recess.
- In May, we will revisit the 7 Days of Creation that we started the year out with:
 - How God made parents and grandparents
 - Celebrating how God made each of these amazing students!
- Parent/teacher conferences will be held again this year to celebrate each child's growth.
- Preschool Graduation: May 14 at 6:30 PM by the playground—we're excited to celebrate!

Go take care of God's planet!
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

\$615.75 Raised!
Thank you!



FINANCIALS:

MARCH FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	MAR 2026	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 43,445	\$ 582,272	\$ 593,750
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (61,075)	\$(659,917)	\$ (624,569)
Total 2025-2026 Ministry Budget: \$790,816			
Facilities Budget:	MAR 2026	YTD '25-'26	YTD '24-'25
Revenue	\$ 6,905	\$ 49,379	\$ 49,681
Expenditures	\$ (1,712)	\$ (27,839)	\$ (21,655)
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.
- 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.

CHURCH FISCAL YEAR-END APPROACHING

May 31st will mark the end of the Church's current fiscal year. Is your pledge current and up-to-date? Now is the time as we complete this year and journey forward. Thank you for participating in all that God is doing among us and helping First Lutheran's ministry!

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 or by calling the church office. Thank you for your generosity to First Lutheran!

Stacy Seim
 Bookkeeper
 308.237.5544



DATES TO REMEMBER

Please review the calendar at FirstLutheranKearney.org for updates.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
April 26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2 Laying on of Hands 6pm: Worship Women's ELCA Southern Prairie Gathering - Bethany Lutheran, Minden
May						
3 Laying on of Hands 8:45am: Worship with Affirmation of Baptism 11am: Worship 2pm: Brookestone Gardens Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9 6pm: Worship
10 8:45am: Worship with Children's Choir 11am: Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16 6pm: Worship w/Laying on of Hands
17 Laying on of Hands 8:45am: Worship Graduates Recognized 11am: Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23 6pm: Worship
24 9:45am: Worship	25 Memorial Day - Office closed	26	27	28	29	30 6pm: Worship FLY Lock-In
31 9:45am: Worship	June 1	2	3	4	5	6

SYNOD ASSEMBLY
AT YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	JUNE					
May 31	1	2	3	4	5	6 Laying on of Hands 6pm: Worship
7 Laying on of Hands 9:45am: Worship 2pm: Brookestone Gardens Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13 6pm: Worship
	CONFIRMATION CAMP JUNE 7 - 12					
14 9:45am: Worship Budget Forum	15	16	17	18	19	20 Laying on of Hands 6pm: Worship
21 9:45am: Laying on of Hands Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27 6pm: Worship
28 9:45am: Worship 11:00am: Annual Congregational Meeting	29	30	July 1	2	3	4 6pm: Worship

Church Office 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 ^{of the} 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

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The church calendar, weekly bulletins, prayer lists, and LIVE Webstream Broadcasts on Sunday mornings can be found on our website:

<https://firstlutherankearney.org>

Find us on Facebook: "First Lutheran Church-Kearney"

Sign Up for Weekly Email Updates: office@firstlutherankearney.org

LIVE Radio Broadcast Sundays at 8:45am | 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.*