THE NOVEMBER MESSENGER

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

Chili and Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser

What a wonderful time to gather! A special SHOUT OUT to ALL of the participants who donated their time and food for this event.
F.L.Y. raised $1,091 towards the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering travel expenses.
We couldn't have done this without YOU!



















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

RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

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



Prayers of Comfort and Peace for...

- Chuck and Julie Kinnaman and family on the death of Chuck's sister, Connie Ryan.
- Janet and David Dwiggins on the death of Janet's father, Daryl Rodgers.
- The Johannesen family (Steve & Michelle, Jacob, Ethan) on the death of Steve's grandmother, Ramona Hasek.
- Pastor Logan and Erin Ellis and family on the death of Pastor Logan's grandmother, Patty Daughenbaugh.

Prayers of Gratitude and Thanksgiving for...

- The birth of Emersyn Anne Johnson and for her parents, Payton and Riley Johnson and grandparents Gordon and Stephanie Ferhinger.

MESSAGE FROM VICAR LIBBY



Friends in Christ,

As my internship at First Lutheran continues, I am noticing how God meets us in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.

This month I dropped in at Kearney Regional for a member visit and was struck by the deeply warm welcome extended by the patient and the family when I appeared in the doorway. I was reminded of a passage from Matthew, chapter 25:35, which says in part, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me…” God’s presence in the room was evident in the love and concern of caring family members, as well as in the compassion and skill of the patient’s care team.

And late last month I was cleaning up after 6th grade boys small group confirmation when a small hand reached out and a voice asked what they could do to help. This was unexpected! I am grateful to this young man for his efforts. It reminded me that God’s love often shows up quietly, through the small acts of kindness of others.

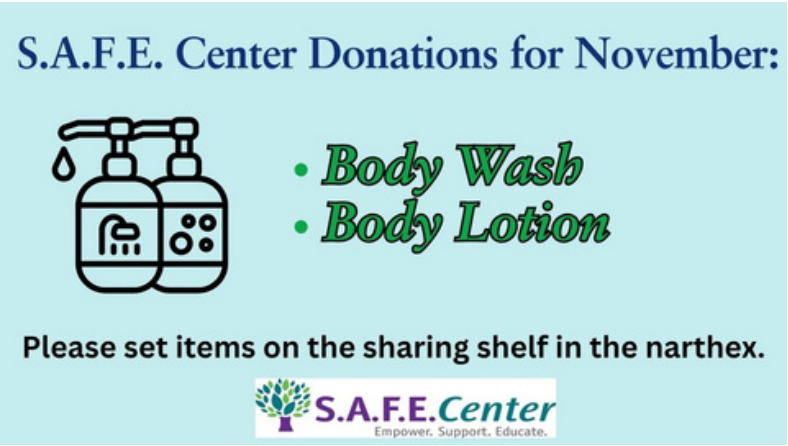
I invite you to look for God’s presence in your daily life, such as in a conversation, a shared meal, or a moment of stillness. Sometimes, the most profound encounters happen when we least expect them.

Thank you for allowing me to learn and grow alongside you.

-Vicar Libby



MISSION OUTREACH



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

Give the Gift of Hope **This Advent Season**!
As you enjoy the Advent Fair on November 22nd in Centennial Hall, we invite you to stop by the Mission Outreach Table and discover a meaningful way to share God's love with families and communities in need. Through a special gift bundle, you can help provide a goat, rooster, cow, chicks, seeds and gardening tools, honeybees, fruit-tree seedlings, farming education, and a community garden. These gifts help families grow their own food, nourish their loved ones, and build a more secure future.
This year our ELCA Good Gifts goal is to support an Abundant Community at $1,020. Together, let's help build multiple communities!
This Advent season, let's celebrate the gift of Christ's love by giving gifts that keep on growing. Stop by the Mission Outreach Table to learn more about how your generosity can plant seeds of hope that will bless families for generations to come!



Abundant community
Equip a whole community with the resources needed to build a stronger future. This gift bundle includes a goat, rooster, cow, three chicks, seeds and gardening tools, honeybees, three fruit-tree seedlings, farmers' field school and community garden — gifts that will enable neighbors to nourish themselves and their families and generate income. The seeds of hope you help your neighbors plant today will continue to grow for generations to come.

MISSION OUTREACH

Habitat for Humanity

On Thursday, October 22, First National Bank presented Habitat with a $15,000 grant check.
What a generous donation!
We are still working on building houses. We have worked on soffit, siding and fascia. We've also formed the driveway and are ready to pour.



KEARNEY JUBILEE CENTER
Volunteers in Action – Christmas Edition

Come shop for your Christmas décor made with items that have been donated to the Kearney Jubilee Center. We will have decorated trees, wreaths and other Christmas décor for sale.



When: Friday, November 6th 1:00-5:00pm
Where: First Presbyterian Church – entryway
4511 – 6th Avenue, Kearney, NE 68845

All proceeds benefit the Kearney Jubilee Center.
Cash, check or credit card accepted.

For more information:
Follow us on Facebook – Kearney Jubilee: Thrift Store OR
info@kearneyjubilee.org OR call (308) 234-3880, (308) 440-6147

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is happy to see results of our newly revised time and talents survey coming in. We encourage all who have not had the opportunity to complete the survey to look online or in person near the welcome stations.

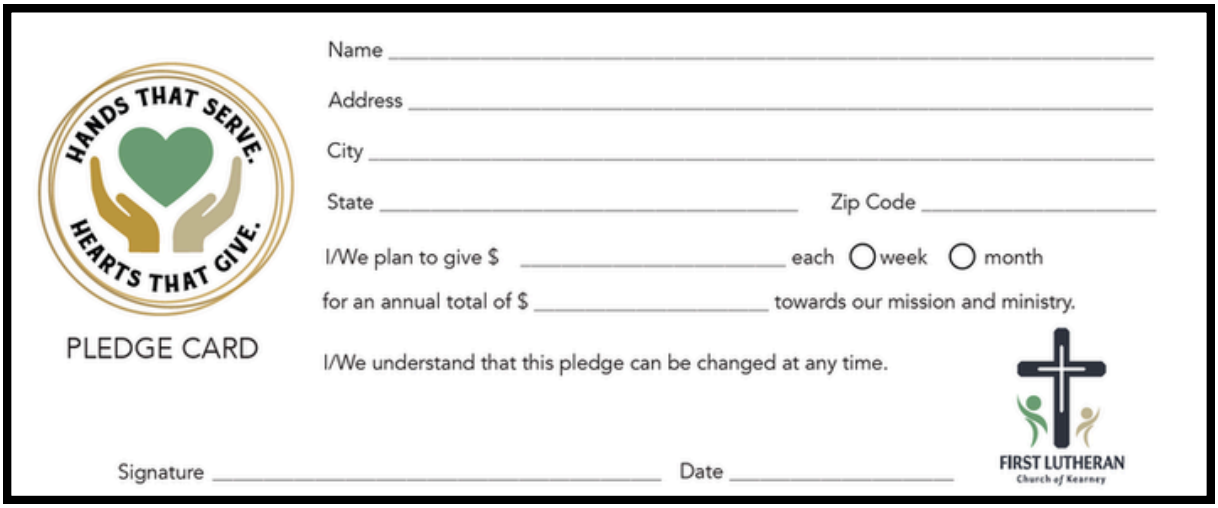
We hope to show a map of connections our church has with not just the community of Kearney, but beyond to the surrounding areas as well. We also hope it is a helpful tool for you in your discernment for which ministries and groups align with your gifts and talents.

We are excited for past, current, and new connections our church makes with the surrounding community.

We will conclude our Stewardship Campaign on November 14th and November 15th. During worship we will **turn in our pledge cards** together to celebrate all of the good work God has done, and to help our committees plan mission and activities for next year. If you haven't received your pledge card in the mail, extra copies are on the welcome stations.

We thank you for being an important part of our church family, and look forward to highlighting what makes our church truly special.

Pastor Logan Ellis,
on behalf of the Stewardship Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS



Oct. 24 thru Nov. 15 - -It's time to update our directory! Photos will be taken before and after services **by the west entrance to Centennial Hall.** You can also submit your own photo that's less than a year old to: JPuls@Region3.net or text to Jen 308-627-5519.



November 1st and 2nd: Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits will be blessed at all services this weekend.
Packing day will be Monday, November 2nd at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall.



Who wants an extra hour of sleep?
Set your clocks back November 1st at 2:00am!

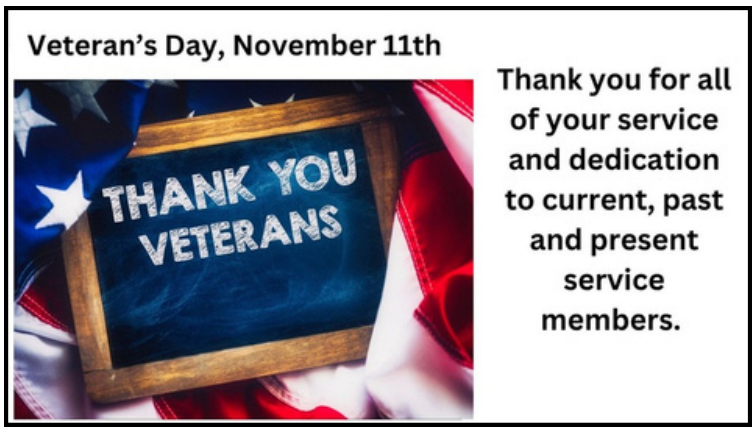


Please join us for a "Thank You" reception for Natalie Radcliffe. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee and cake to celebrate with Natalie as she transitions to "Semi-Retirement".
Did you know that Natalie has been here 29+ years?!?

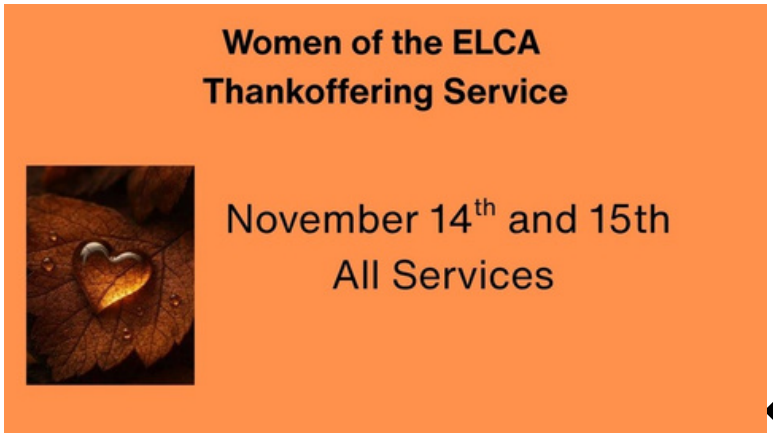
UPCOMING EVENTS



Nov. 8, 15, and 29 are the dates for our next Adult Bible Study with Pastor Rick. Details are listed on page 12 in the "Adult Ministry" section.



Thank you, Veterans, for your service!



The Women of the ELCA will present their Thankofferings November 14th and 15th.



We will offer our pledges the weekend of November 14th and 15th. Extra pledge cards are on the welcome stations.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The last meeting dates for Sunday School and Wednesday evening youth activities this fall are November 15th and November 18th .



Save the date: November 22nd will be the Advent Fair. Details to come!



Although the FLY Brunch isn't until December 20th, we will start collecting auction items beginning November 23rd. Please bring them to the office. Donation items can be used (good condition), new, or handmade. Contact Pastor Logan if you have questions.



Does it seem too early to talk about Poinsettias? The supplier needs our order placed 30 days before delivery. Order forms will be available soon on the welcome stations.

THANK YOU!

Our FLY Youth Group says “Thank You” to all who cooked, and all who attended the Chili Cook Off. We raised over $1,000 in donations, which will help our Youth Group represent our church family in Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer.

It was standing room only both for attendees and servers. We had a record of over 26 different chilis served, and it was a wonderful night. We received high praises from our representative guests from the Nebraska Legislature and gubernatorial race. We also welcomed some new guests and chili chefs from outside the Kearney area, as our event has spread beyond our walls. Many awards were given, many cups of chili were enjoyed, and hopefully few bellies needed rest afterword.

We thank everyone who made this event possible, as it has grown every year in scope and scale. We hope to continue this great tradition and are excited to host this community and church family event.

Blessings,
Pastor Logan and F.L.Y.







First Lutheran Church & Preschool would like to send a huge Thank You to Nielsen Pumpkin Patch in Minden for donating 40+ pumpkins. These are displayed at the church entrances and some were given to the Preschool Kiddos!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Praising God through music!

The choirs practice weekly during the academic year.
Anyone is welcome to join!

Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. High School through adults are welcome. CJ Sabah - Director

Chancel Bells rehearses on Tuesdays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This choir is open to high schoolers through adults.
Natalie Radcliffe - Director

Sound Offering Praise Band rehearsals vary.
If interested, contact Stacy Bean - Director

Praiser Bells rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15pm to 5:45pm. This choir is for 3rd grade through 8th grade. Angela Wright - Director

Heavenly Treble Makers rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:15pm to 6:45 pm. This is a vocal choir for middle schoolers. Angela Wright - Director

Children's Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings during Sunday School and Wednesday evenings during F.R.O.G.
Extra practices for the Christmas Program are scheduled for November.
Please see page 14 for details.
All children are welcome.
Amanda Lewis - Director



Ringing in Christmas
Saturday, December 5, 2026
4:00 PM
Merryman Performing Arts Center

Featuring
Chancel Bells, First Lutheran Church
Gloria Dei Bells, First Presbyterian Church
Acclamation Bells, First United Methodist Church

ADULT MINISTRY



Topics to be covered include:
· What was going on among God's people after they returned from their exile in Babylon? (Israel in the years 539 BCE to 333 BCE)
· What and why were the final books written that are in the Old Testament?
· Why did a Greek ruler try to eradicate Judaism as a religion?
· What is meant by apocalyptic literature and theology?
· How did the Old Testament become finalized?
· What is the Septuagint?
· What books were produced in between the Old Testament era and the New Testament era?
· What happened when the Romans took over Palestine?
· What was Judaism like during Jesus' ministry?
· Where did Jesus fit into his religious, social, and political world?
· How did the New Testament begin to emerge after Jesus' death and resurrection?
These three Sunday morning classes will be recorded and posted on the First Lutheran website.

Coming in 2027! Reading the New Testament with Pastor Rick
An Intentional Project for Reading Every Book in the New Testament throughout 2027
This reading project will include:
· A weekly schedule for reading designated chapters in the New Testament throughout 2027, beginning in the first week of January
· Optional twice monthly meetings with Pastor Rick offered to discuss what participants have been reading in the New Testament (offered in a Thursday morning and a Thursday evening format)
· Opportunities to reflect on the New Testament chapters you are reading

YOUTH MINISTRY

FLY had a very active October! We had our Chili Cook-Off, visited our friends at Campus Lutheran, made plans for the ELCA Youth Gathering, and we'll have carved pumpkins by the time you receive this edition of the Messenger.

We want to thank all who participated in the cook-off, and everyone who came to make it a special event for our community. It will help support our youth who will represent us at a national level in Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

We are continuing to grow our faith and relationships as we look to November. We are planning to help our friends at the S.A.F.E. Center, our friends at FROG, and to explore some interesting topics. It is amazing how fast the year goes by once school is in session!

Our group has really enjoyed connecting with other youth groups, which we plan to continue in December.

Blessings, Pastor Logan





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Mark your calendar with these important events!





Children's Christmas Program: BIG Important Practices!

Sun., Nov. 22nd 2-3pm – Cast Only *3-4pm
All Preschool – 5th graders

Wed., Dec. 2nd – 7 – 8pm – Cast Only (After Advent Vespers)

Sun., Dec. 6th – 2-3pm – Full Dress Rehearsal for Cast Only
* 3-4pm – All Pre-K – 5th graders



WOMEN'S ELCA

WISHES FOR A BLESSED THANKSGIVING
May the simple joys of home and family grace your Thanksgiving table this year. May the dinner be tasty, the laughter be brisk, with warm and lasting memories.
From your friends in Women of the ELCA



The Women of the ELCA Board Meeting was held September 3. A potluck supper was enjoyed by all. The meeting covered the change of our bank to Pinnacle in Kearney. The account now has three signatures, no charges for maintenance, and is interest bearing with a minimum balance of $1,500. Jo Smallcomb was thanked for her years of service as Treasurer for Women of the ELCA. The calendar for the holidays and need to review donations will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

November 5 - A Board meeting was held to finalize plans for the Christmas Brunch and entertainment. A speaker for the brunch has confirmed to present how the training and selection of service dogs for various people is determined. Music is yet to be determined.

The date of the **CHRISTMAS BRUNCH IS DECEMBER 12 AT 10:30 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL - ALL ARE INVITED.** A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Women of the ELCA bulletin board in the hallway near the church offices. You can also call Kandy Bacon in the office to sign up to attend (308) 237-5544. Please sign up to attend to help plan for food. If you are able to help with the menu, items will include breakfast casserole, fruit or rolls, muffins, etc. There will be a sign-up sheet for food on the bulletin board.

Autumn Renewal for Southern Prairie – The program theme "God Doesn't Make Junk" was held in Grand Island at St. Paul's Lutheran church Oct. 10th. The program included a presentation by the S.A.F.E. Center. The main speaker was Charlotte Endorf with a presentation on the Orphan Train. About 50 attended the event, and funds were donated to the S.A.F.E. Center Kearney.

THANKOFFERING – The annual offerings will be collected at all First Lutheran Church services on November 14/15, 2026.

PRESCHOOL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD CLASS

Happy November! 🍂

We have had so much fun learning and exploring in our classroom! Our little friends have been busy learning new things, practicing our classroom routines, and growing together each day. We are so proud of their hard work, kindness, and curiosity!

We have been learning about the letters I and T, along with the numbers 7–10. We have also been exploring triangles and practicing recognizing letters, numbers, shapes, and their sounds through fun games, crafts, stories, and hands-on activities.

We had so much fun learning all about insects! We explored different kinds of insects, talked about their features, and enjoyed activities that helped us learn more about these little creatures. We also had fun with pumpkins, discovering their colors, shapes, and textures while enjoying some fall-themed activities.

Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement, creativity, and learning! We have loved decorating butterflies, exploring new materials, and enjoying visits from the Bookmobile. Reading new books and sharing stories has been such a fun part of our learning!

During Chapel, we continue learning about God through our Spark Bible, singing songs, praying together, and practicing how to show kindness, love, and respect to our friends.

We are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving together with our special Thanksgiving Feast! This will be a wonderful opportunity for our preschoolers to enjoy time together, celebrate friendship, and remember all the blessings we have to be thankful for. We are excited to make sweet memories with our little learners!

Thank you for sharing your wonderful little ones with us. We are so thankful for each of our preschool friends and their families!

God Bless,
Ms. Arianna







PRESCHOOL

Happy November!

The Pre-K room has reviewed letters A- H, and are working on numbers everyday during calendar time. We have taught them 13 sight words and I am teaching them how to write a sentence using our sight words. I also teach them how to draw something that goes with the sentence. Each week they begin a new book that goes with the letter. They learn lots of things that start with each letter and begin to be early readers. They have a box that they painted and it was sent home with a few of their first books. We continue to read and color these books. Then after we have read them for a week or two, they go home to be put in their box and read or sung every night.

Our theme for D was “dig”. Students brought items we could hear, smell, touch and see. They draw one thing and write at least the first letter it starts with. They played with dominoes, dot-to-dot pages, dug for dinosaurs in our playground, and learned what the word “dissolve” means from a science experiment. They also learned a lot about dinosaurs and dogs.

The next week was B is for bounce. They brought bouncy balls to try to keep them up in the air, but gravity keeps bringing them down. They also balanced with bean bags, tried to keep balloons from hitting the ground. We also did some art with colored bubble solution. They had a Big Box in the reading center to draw on and read books in.

Then it was I is for insect. We searched for insects at recess and brought dead ones to look at in our nature center. We learned a lot about insects. We also did an experiment with ice. The students predicted if the ice would melt faster with water, salt, sugar, or baking soda. Then we did the experiment to find out if our predictions were correct. We also discussed solid, liquid and gas. We let the ice melt and eventually evaporate.

We had a blast at the UNK Homecoming parade. Many families help decorate, be apart of the float, and help tear it down. We handed out tokens that had a qr code to our website and said, “Faith is our greatest fortune”. We are so blessed with caring families!

Lastly, we will be celebrating H is for Halloween with fun Halloween stories, carving pumpkins, singing songs and playing games. We have made some fall decorations and having a blast in Pre-K!

November means we will talk about how thankful we are for everything that God has provided us!



Have a blessed November!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Sonya

FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings from your Church Council.

This month, the Council had a relatively light but meaningful agenda. We approved the worship schedule for Christmas Eve, with services at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m., as in previous years. We also authorized the pastors to work with the choir, children's program leaders, and other groups to determine the best time for our Sunday worship services during December.

For the month of December only, we will continue to offer our Saturday evening service but will hold just one Sunday morning service. Our regular two-service Sunday schedule will resume in January. This temporary adjustment will accommodate the Christmas Cantata and children's program, both of which will be presented only once on Sunday, as well as the typically lighter attendance on the Sunday following Christmas. We hope this schedule will allow more of our congregation to worship together during this special season. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a Council member.

The Council also approved an endowment request from Pastor Logan on behalf of the First Lutheran Youth (FLY) group to help offset transportation costs for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. The Endowment Committee had previously recommended approval of the request by a 4–0 vote. We are pleased to support this opportunity for our youth to grow in faith and fellowship.

We continue to make progress on the goals established at our initial Council retreat. This month, our discussion focused on reaching out to new and existing members through a new podcast ministry. The Imaging and Technology Team has been asked to explore the technical aspects of recording and producing podcasts. Once those details are worked out, we plan to form a podcast team to develop content.

Our initial goal is to produce at least one podcast each quarter, bringing together a youth member and a more experienced member of the congregation to share their perspectives on topics related to church life, particularly recent sermons and lessons. We hope these conversations will provide another way to connect members across generations and encourage thoughtful discussion about our faith. If you are interested in participating, please let the Council know.

cont'd.

FROM THE COUNCIL/ VOLUNTEER

As part of our ongoing efforts to recognize and support the many ways our members serve, please take a few moments to complete the new Time and Talents Survey. We apologize that the original QR code printed on the back of the pledge cards stopped working. An updated QR code is now available at church, in the announcements, and in an email sent to the congregation. We are especially interested in hearing your stories of service throughout our community, as we hope to highlight more of these efforts in the coming months.

We will also be taking new photographs for the church directory through mid-November. Please look for opportunities to have your photo taken and help us keep our directory up to date.

This month, we would especially like to recognize our **Volunteers of the Month: the "God's Work—Our Hands." volunteers.** We are grateful for the time and energy you shared in service to our church and the wider community. Your efforts are a wonderful example of faith put into action, and we deeply appreciate all that you do.

As we move further into fall, we are reminded of the words of Isaiah: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." (Isaiah 40:8) As the leaves change around us, may we remain anchored in the enduring promise of God's Word.

Yours in Christ,
Scott Darveau, Council Vice President

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



SCRIPTURE

November 1, 2026 - All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17, *Psalm* 34:1-10, 22, *1 John* 3:1-3, *Matthew* 5:1-12

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

November 8, 2026 - Time after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24, *Psalm* 70, *1 Thessalonians* 4:13-18, *Matthew* 25:1-13

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

November 15, 2026 - Time after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; *Psalm* 91:1-12; *1 Thessalonians* 5:1-11; *Matthew* 25:14-30

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

November 22, 2026 - Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; *Psalm* 95: 1-7*a*; *Ephesians* 1:15-23; *Matthew* 25:31-46

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

November 29, 2026 - Time of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; *Psalm* 80:1-7, 17-19; *1 Corinthians* 1:3-9; *Mark* 13:24-37

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

FINANCIALS:

SEPTEMBER FINANCE REPORT			
Ministry Budget:	Sept 2026	YTD '26-'27	YTD '25-'26
Budget Supporting Revenue	$ 39,664	$ 204,916	$ 213,439
Budget Related Expenditures	$ (69,666)	$(242,830)	$(259,587)
Total 2026-2027 Ministry Budget: $854,157			
Facilities Budget:	Sept 2026	YTD '26-'27	YTD '25-'26
Revenue	$ 3,619	$ 17,855	$ 18,205
Expenditures	$ (3,702)	$ (9,406)	$ (13,035)
Total 2026-2027 Facilities Budget: $29,000			

Thank You for Your Generosity!
Every gift makes a difference, and we are so grateful for the generosity of our church family. Your offerings help support the ministries, programs, staff, outreach, and mission of our church throughout the year.
We also want to say thank you for using your offering envelopes. When you use your envelope, it helps us accurately record your giving and makes it easier for our office to keep our financial records organized. It also helps ensure that your contributions are properly credited to you.
Whether you give through an offering envelope, online, or another way, please know how much your generosity is appreciated. Thank you for giving faithfully and for being an important part of the ministry God is doing through our church! Your generosity truly makes a difference!

If you have any questions regarding your donations or statements, please reach out to Stacy Seim, First Lutheran Church Bookkeeper.
308.237.5544

FIRST LUTHERAN
Church *of* Kearney

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please review the calendar at FirstLutheranKearney.org for updates.

November 2026
Laying on of Hands the 1st and 3rd weekends

Sat/Sun Oct. 31/Nov. 1 All Saints' Sunday	Worship at 6:00pm and 8:45am & 11:00am Directory photos taken before/after all services Blessing of the LWR Quilts & Kits Thank You Reception for Natalie Radcliffe – 9:50am Centennial Hall Sunday School/FLY 9:50am Brookestone Garden Worship at 2:00pm
Sat/Sun November 7/8	Worship at 6:00p.m and 8:45am and 11:00am Directory photos taken before/after all services Adult Sunday School 9:50am w/Pastor Rick – Centennial Hall Sunday School/FLY 9:50am
Sat/Sun November 14/15	Worship at 6:00p.m and 8:45am and 11:00am Directory photos taken before/after all services Women's ELCA Thank Offering – all services Adult Sunday School 9:50am w/Pastor Rick – Centennial Hall Sunday School/FLY 9:50am
Sat/Sun November 21/22 Christ the King Sunday	Worship at 6:00p.m and 8:45am and 11:00am Advent Fair – 9:30am - 11:00am – Centennial Hall Community Thanksgiving Service at First Presbyterian Church 3:00pm
Thur/Fri Nov. 26/27 Sat/Sun November 28/29 First Sunday of Advent	Church Office Closed Worship at 6:00p.m and 8:45am and 11:00am

December 2026

Wed December 2	6:30pm Advent service
Sat/Sun December 5/6	Worship at 6:00pm. Sunday morning worship time TBD. Brookestone Garden Worship at 2:00pm
Wed December 9	6:30pm Advent service
Sat/Sun December 12/13	Worship at 6:00pm. Sunday morning worship time TBD. Children's Christmas Program during all services
Wed, December 16	6:30pm Advent service
Sat/Sun December 19/20	Worship at 6:00pm. Sunday morning worship time TBD. Cantata during all services
FLY Brunch/Silent Auction Blue Christmas Service	Centennial Hall : time TBD Sanctuary 3:00pm
Thurs, December 24th	5pm, 7pm & 11pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Fri/Mon December 25/28	Church Office Closed for Christmas
Sat/Sun December 26/27	Worship at 6:00pm. Sunday morning worship time TBD.

Church Office Email: office@firstlutherankearney.org
Phone: 308.237.5544

PASTORS:
Pastor Rick Carlson
Co-Lead Pastor

Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson
Co-Lead Pastor

STAFF:
Kandy Bacon
Amy Behrhorst
Administrative Assistants

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
Stacy Bean
Music Coordinators

Sarah Schweitzer
Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

Stacy Seim
Bookkeeper

Vicar Libby Florian
Intern

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President
PJ Bartels

Vice President
Scott Darveau

Treasurer
Tyler Schwartz

Secretary
Lisa Reese Parish

Council Members:
Christine Fisher
Jay Kuecker
Deb Schauer
Shirley Smalley
Terry Volker
Pastor Michelle
Pastor Rick

Women of the ELCA

2026-2027 OFFICERS
President: Judy Workman
President Elect: Sherryl Wilke
Secretary/Treasurer: Stacy Darveau

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.*