

THE MESSENGER

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue through these unknown times and unfamiliar territories, I am drawn back to Psalm 46.

Let me share it with you:

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, and know that I am God!** I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

I highlighted part of verse 10, as it is a well-known breath prayer. Get comfortable and close your eyes. Begin the prayer by breathing and saying the phrase, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Then take several deep breaths. Next pray, “Be still, and know that I am.” Take several deep breaths. Then pray, “Be still, and know.” More deep breaths. Then, “Be still.” Deep breathing. And then finally, “Be.”

It is enough to just be right now. We don’t need to do everything. We can simply do something; however small it is. We can remind ourselves that God is God, and we are humans with limitations and feelings and all the things. We don’t need to solve it; we can just be.

Let us pray. We pray to you almighty God, in this time of COVID-19. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. We ask that you do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are in peril. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

In peace,

Pastor Michelle



High School Graduates



Justin Baumert



Nicole Detering



Carson Elstermeier



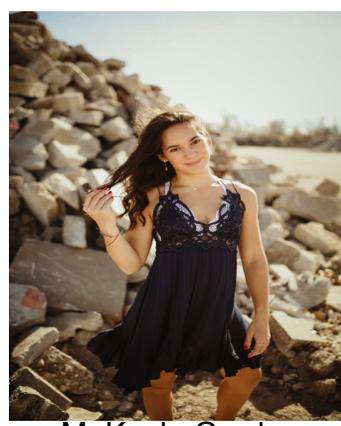
Megan Ernst



Lexi Erpelding



Macy Fuller



MaKayla Gordon



James Hagge



Dylan Scott Johnson



Chance Long



Miles McCormick



Ryan Melroy



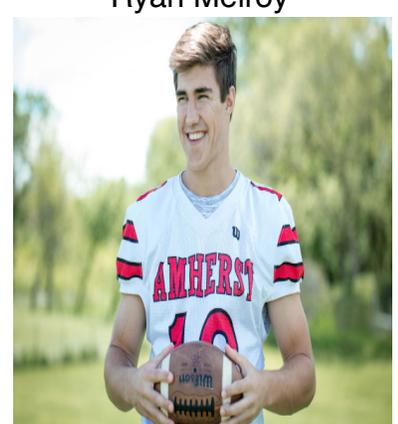
Matthew Merz



Jaylen Schlueter



Zach Schwartz



Cole Stokebrand

Basic Training/Elementary/College Grads



Caleb Bean

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Will Fehringer



Micah Lewis



Ella Means



Preston Russman



Kayley Andersen



Miranda Wright



Brooke Behle



Kelsey Stithem



Cody Troutd



Kamryn Zimmer

OFFICE UPDATES



FLC STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Church Office

office@firstlutheranearney.org

Pastor Rick Carlson

Pastor

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Pastor Michelle Carlson

Pastor

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Executive Director

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Administrative Assistant

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Bookkeeper

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natalieradcliffe@firstlutheranearney.org

Adam Eilers

Maintenance Coordinator

aeilers@firstlutheranearney.org

Judy O'Donnell

Preschool Director

judyodonnell@firstlutheranearney.org

APRIL FINANCE REPORT

Ministry Budget:	Apr. 2020	YTD '19-'20	YTD '18-'19
Budget Supporting Revenue	\$ 44,965	\$ 592,626	\$ 592,457
Budget Related Expenditures	\$ (51,120)	\$ (618,092)	\$ (607,549)

Total 2019-2020 Ministry Budget: \$794,482

Facilities Budget:	Apr. 2020	YTD '19-'20	YTD '18-'19
Revenue	\$ 5,604	\$ 75,786	\$ 67,870
Expenditures	\$ (907)	\$ (25,157)	\$ (23,511)

Total 2019-2020 Facilities Budget: \$30,000

Offerings Year to Date

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>%Change</u>
Apr.	\$49,963	\$45,494	-9.8%
Year to Date	\$607,674	\$626,020	3.0%
Average per week giving		\$14,228	
Goal per week		\$15,279	
Per Week vs. Goal			-\$1,051

USE OF OFFERING ENVELOPES

Thank you to all those who regularly make use of the weekly offering envelopes. It may not be possible to keep an accurate recording of your contributions if you do not use your envelopes. If you choose to contribute by check without using the envelopes, please write your offering envelope number on your check. This will enable us to record your contributions accurately. Any loose checks that are received without an envelope number noted may not be reflected on your contribution statement.

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

If you are not receiving offering envelopes and would like some, please contact Marti in the church office. Thank you for your help!

COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings from your Church Council,

Here's an update on the latest happenings and discussions within First Lutheran Church.

Please know that your church is moving forward in this time of uncertainty caused by COVID. Here are some of the things that we discussed and acted on at our May council meeting.

Each year we have an internal audit of our books. The audit committee has three members, with each person serving a three-year term and one person rotating off every year. Thank you to Carrie Stithem, Mark Andersen, and Robyn Jackson for sharing their time and talents in this manner. Doug Eppler is rotating off, and we thank him for his service.

The staff and council are coming up with ideas on how and when we can worship together again safely. We have appreciated the well thought out and prudent guidelines that have been provided to us from the Nebraska Synod. We have also discussed contingency plans for our budget forum and our annual congregational meeting if we are unable to meet and vote in person. Council will be meeting again in a special meeting on May 31st to determine how to best go forward.

The Spirit is moving, and the call committee has conducted a Zoom interview with a candidate for the position that is to be split 50/50 as associate pastor at First Lutheran Church and at Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNK. The candidate and family will be coming to Kearney for an in-person interview once everyone feels comfortable in doing so. To refresh your memory, funding for this position would come from three sources - a grant provided by Immanuel Vision Foundation, Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, and First Lutheran Church.

Thank you to our nominating committee for uplifting a strong slate of candidates for our upcoming congregational elections. Thank you to all the candidates who answered the call and your willingness to offer your time and talents to serve the Lord in this manner!

I am writing this message on Sunday morning, May 17th, about ten in the morning. It was a great joy and uplifting experience to join in worship with many of you via our livestream broadcast and with others listening on the radio. We are so blessed to live in this time and have these types of technology available to us so that we can worship together, although in a different way. Thank you to the Imaging and Technology team and for their foresight and having these systems in place prior to social distancing. We appreciate our musicians who have provided special music through this time. The messages we have heard through in the sermons and homilies were no doubt Spirit filled – just the words we needed to hear for the times.

Thank you for uplifting our Pastors, church staff, team leaders, call committee and candidate, church council and all those in need in your prayers.

Blessings to you and your families,

First Lutheran Church Council

Lee Fritson, Judy Henning, Rachel Leach, Kyle Means, Miranda Obermeier, Kelly Russman, Kim Troudt, Dave Zimmer, & Mark Kottmeyer, (308) 380-3487



Receiving God's Grace. Sharing God's Love. Uniting in Christ.
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Mark Kottmeyer - President
mkottmeyer@gmail.com
(308) 380-3487

Kim Troudt - Vice President

Kyle Means - Treasurer

Judy Henning - Secretary

Lee Fritson
Rachel Leach
Miranda Obermeier
Kelly Russman
Dave Zimmer

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact information for our
Congregational Council
Representatives are available
in the lobby or the church office.

WORSHIP THEMES

JUNE 6-7

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GENESIS 1:1--2:4a; PSALM 8; 2
CORINTHIANS 13:11-13; MATTHEW 28:16-20.

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

JUNE 13-14

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EXODUS 19:2-8a; PSALM 100; ROMANS 5:1-8; MATTHEW 9:35--10:8.

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 20-21

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JEREMIAH 20:7-13; PSALM 69:7-10, 16-18;
ROMANS:6:1b-11; MATTHEW 10:24-39.

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 27-28

FORTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JEREMIAH 28:5-9; PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18;
ROMANS 6:12-23; MATTHEW 10:40-42.

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This 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.

ADULT EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

Adult Education and Fellowship opportunities are in abundance at First Lutheran Church. If you are curious about any of the programming we offer and want more information, please contact the church office at: 308-237-5544 or just show up!

SUNDAY

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Sundays 9:45-11:00 am in the Café

MONDAY

Quilt Tying

Quilt Tying takes place the first Monday of every month at 8:30 am in the Quilt Room. All are welcome. (Canceled for June)

TUESDAY

SUNRISE PRAYER & STUDY GROUP

This group meets at 7:00 am on Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. This study takes a look at the upcoming gospel text from the lectionary and discussion is centered around how this applies to our lives today.

WEDNESDAY

Learn to Knit or Crochet

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Wednesday in the coffee area from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm during the school year. Please join us for Knitting, Crocheting, Conversation and Prayer. If you have any questions, or if you know of someone who might be able to use a Prayer Shawl as a tangible reminder of God's love and grace during hard times and good times, please call or text Theress Bricker 308-233-2469.

THURSDAY

MARTIN & KATIE'S COFFEE HOUR

Please join our seasoned and sensational members and friends in the Café Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:00 am for delectable delights and candid conversation. All are welcome for this great time of fellowship.

Bible Study

On the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall there will be a Bible Study called "Unexpected" by Christine Caine. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact LaVon McLane at (308) 293-1882.

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Are you concerned about what's happening in our nation? Do events in other parts of the world cause you concern? Would you like to be part of the answer? If so, you might want to JOIN US IN PRAYER. We meet every Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 at Welcove. You do not have to be an "expert pray-er". You don't even have to pray out loud, if you'd rather not. Jesus has promised that where two or three are gathered in His Name, He is in the midst of them. Consider joining us as we talk to Him about our community, our nation and the world.

DON'T WORRY! JOIN A PRAYER CHAIN

Help pray for brothers and sisters in Christ, or share requests for prayer. Paul reminds us "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". (Phil 4:6).

Telephone prayer chain members are led by Jeanette Andersen (308-237-3634), Marlene Kotrc (308-234-3293).

If you would like to participate in email prayer requests, pass your request along to the church office (office@firstlutheran Kearney.org) or Theress Bricker (tmbricker4@gmail.com). Requests will be emailed to you, and all you need to do is pray for the person or event.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

REMINDERS

First Lutheran Church has a lot of ways to help others:

Education coupons on products - helps Mosaic in Axtell buy equipment.

Pop tabs go to McDonald's house in Omaha and pays for their utilities.

Family Fresh cash register tape dollars are counted, and when there is enough, they are turned in for \$1,000 for our youth.

Taking pop cans to Andersen Wrecking can provide funds for the youth. Just apply the cash to their account.

All of these items can be put in the box on the cabinet in the Narthex. They are then collected, and distributed.

Also, there are new hearing amplifiers for those, without hearing aids, that require help in hearing. The old black ones no longer work, but there are new ones in white boxes, also in the north cabinet drawer in the Narthex.

HELP TIE QUILTS FOR LWR

Join us the first Monday of each month, 8:30-11:00 a.m. in the quilt room, to assemble and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Our goal is 100 quilts each year!

Please consider donating supplies for our LWR quilts. We're in need of fabric and thread, as well as used sheets, blankets and mattress pads. If you have questions please call Betty Young 308-440-7313 or Sandy Pratt 308-627-1995. Thank you! **This has been Canceled for June.**

LEARN TO KNIT OR CROCHET

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Wednesday in the coffee area from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please join us for Knitting, Crocheting, Conversation and Prayer. If you have any questions, or if you know of someone who might be able to use a Prayer Shawl as a tangible reminder of God's love and grace during hard times and good times, please call or text Theress Bricker 308-233-2469.

ARCHIVES

As the archive committee sorts through hundreds of pictures of past events at First, we are realizing that we have very few recent pictures. The main reason is technology has changes that. Our pictures are now on our IPHones. We are asking that if you have any past events at First Lutheran that are hiding out on your phones please share them with the archive committee. Our email address is archives@firstlutheran Kearney.org. We also want to encourage you to bring in any printed photots or documents that you would like to share with us.



Sign up for weekly E-mail updates:
Send request to:
office@firstlutheran Kearney.org



LIVE Radio Broadcast:
Sundays 8:45 AM – KXPN 1460 AM



LIVE Webstream Broadcast:
Sundays 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM
www.firstlutheran Kearney.org



View our Event Calendar:
www.firstlutheran Kearney.org



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

WITHIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of sympathy and comfort for:

Lloyd & Sherryl Wilke on the death of their niece, Emily Gottula.

Debbie & Larry Steinbrecher on the death of Debbie's mother, Leah Dittenber.

John & Lori McArthur and family on the death of Lori's grandmother, Leah Dittenber.

Maxine Grassmeyer and family on the death of Jerry Grassmeyer.

Gary & Stephanie Straatmann on the death of Gary's sister, Gayle Traver.

Frank & Mary Wright on the death of their friend, Ken DeKok.

Bob and Marleen Bales and family on the death of Marleen's nephew.

Troy and Marti Brockmeier and family on the death of Marti's uncle, Marv Walz.

Thank you

Thank you on behalf of Jerry Grassmeyer for your care and concern during our time of loss. We appreciate all the cards and phone calls. We love our Church family. God Bless, Maxine Grassmeyer and family

Volunteer of the Month

June Volunteers of the Month

The Volunteers of the Month for June are the singers that have helped with our livestream services as well as the Sound Offering band. These talented individuals have provided uplifting music for the congregation during this difficult time and hopefully make it easier for folks to sing along at home.

We are very thankful and blessed to have them as members of First Lutheran Church. The volunteers from Chancel Choir and our youth are: Natalie Radcliffe, Nancy Darling, Duane Rohla, Dave Brandt, Mitchell Brandt, Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein, Beth & Gary Forbess, Angela, Maleah, Marissa & Miranda Wright. The Sound Offering Band consists of: Stacy Bean, Kristi Krohn, Dave Behle, Mike Epley, Mollie Akerson, Nathan Eidem, Jessica Eidem & Derrick Schweitzer. We also so appreciate our organists and pianists during this time: Betty Heggemeyer, Angela Wright and Stacy Bean. We are grateful for all the efforts of our musicians. They are faithful followers of Christ, and they lead by example. The next time you visit with any of the above members, please offer them a heartfelt 'thank you' for the wonderful way that they serve Christ within our church.



WOMEN of the ELCA

Congratulations to the 2020 Graduates of First Lutheran Church, Kearney, and surrounding region! The members of the W.E.L.C.A. wish you the best in the years to come!

The W.E.L.C.A. Spring Fling and 90th Birthday Party at First Lutheran were CANCELLED THIS YEAR but, we wish all those "90 and Beyond" a very Happy Birthday. If you know someone with a special Birthday don't forget to send them a card or give them a call.

CHANGES DUE TO COVID 19 – The W.E.L.C.A. BOARD MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED ON JUNE 8TH IS CANCELLED! THE W.E.L.C.A. BOARD MEETING WILL BE COMBINED WITH THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13, 2020 PENDING COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS. Nominations will be taken at the July 13, 2020 combined Board and General Membership meeting. The W.E.L.C.A. Board will be seeking nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer offices to be filled this year. Circle Chairs need to schedule their election of officers in June or early July and ask for nominations for the W.E.L.C.A. Board. The current officers will remain in place for the 2020-2021 WELCA Board positions including representatives on the W.E.L.C.A. Committees if no changes or nominations are received. **W.E.L.C.A. NEEDS YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE BY SERVING ON THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES!**

Update of the Circle Directory 2020-2021 delayed until Circles can meet. Chairs are requested to review all pages of the current directory and update for 2020-2021 Women of the ELCA Circle directory. Please check for updates: address, phone, e-mail and addition or deletion of members or projects. The revisions go to Kandy Bacon First Lutheran Church by September 7th.

REMINDER – As you spring clean remember to pass on old news clips or W.E.L.C.A. Minutes to Paula Peterson of the Archives Committees. She requests any retired record books or articles from Circles or church members be passed on to Archives Committee.

Mosaic Activity/Sensory/Fidget Mat Special Project – The Autumn Renewal (date TBD) project for Nebraska Synodical W.E.L.C.A. is making mats for Alzheimer/Dementia facilities. If you are interested in helping contact Mary Mayfield at (402) 879-1354. They are hoping to make 100.

Upcoming Events

July 13 - Women of ELCA Board Meeting and Election of Officers

July 17 - Registration due SAVED TO SERVE RETREAT (registration banked if cancelled)

August 7-9 - Saved To Serve EVENT Lynch, NE -Niobrara Valley House of Renewal pending COVID 19(for registration info & forms call Judy Workman or Kandy Bacon.

October 3 - W.E.L.C.A. SPRING GATHERING – Hastings



Ladies who are interested in joining a monthly Bible study are invited to attend a women's circle. Circles can be joined at any time during the year.

Co-Chairs:

Lil Larson (308)-224-6207

Judy Workman (308)-237-2781

Secretary:

Bev Vacha (308)-468-6239

Treasurer:

Jo Smallcomb (308)-234-3053



ABIGAIL CIRCLE (SEPT.-MAY)

9:00 am—3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Joan Swanson (308-234-2835) and Evy Kuecker (308-237-5651)

DEBORAH CIRCLE

7:00 pm –3rd Monday

Co-Chairs: Deb Schauer (308-233-2669) and Ellen Epp (308-234-5696)

GLORIA CIRCLE

12:00pm—3rd Thursday

Chair: Karen Foster (308-234-2157)

NAOMI CIRCLE

7:30pm—4th Thursday (3rd Thurs. in Nov.)

Chair: Judy Niemann (308)-234-4332

2020 Ballots

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Vote for three Candidates
for a three year term.

Rachel Leach

Mark Kottmeyer

Mike Rafferty

Beth Forbess

Write In

Write In

PRESCHOOL BOARD

Vote for three Candidates
for a three year term.

Janice Knispel

Sarah Haack

Stephanie Todd

Calli Cardenas

Kahla Kuecker

Sarah Schweitzer

Sarah Davis

Write In

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Vote for three Candidates
for a two year term.

Cindy Wessels

Lotys Suhr

Vera Lee Brodine

Ken Tracy

Kim Schipporeit

Sue Wright

Write In

Write In

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Vote for four Candidates
for a three year term.

Jen Puls

Paul Bartlett

Steve England

Gary Anderson

Write In

Write In

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

CHANCEL CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:00-8:15 PM
Sanctuary
Director: C.J. Sabah

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children Pre-K through
Grade 5. Meets during FROG
& Sunday School
Director: Amanda Lewis

HEAVENLY TREBLE MAKERS

Grades 6-12
Wednesday
6:15-6:45 Room 9
Director: Angela Wright

CHANCEL BELLS

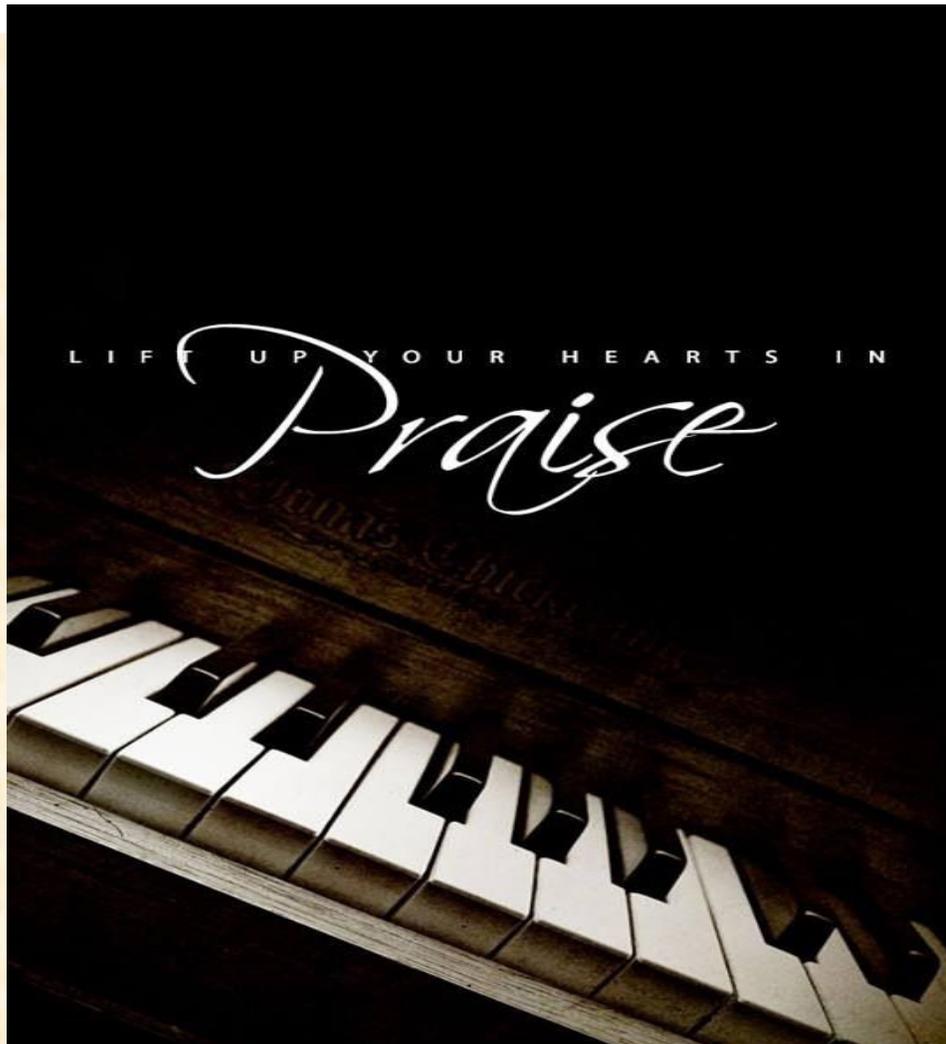
Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 PM
Sanctuary
Director: Natalie Radcliffe

PRAISER BELLS

Youth in Grades 3-8
Wednesdays 5:15-5:45 PM
Sanctuary
Director: Angela Wright

WORSHIP TEAMS

These groups sing for the
Contemporary Worship
Service. Rehearsals are on
Wednesdays @
5:30 PM in the Choir Room



RESOURCES



<http://www.elca.org>
800-638-3522



<http://www.nelcm.com/>
(308) 234-1828



Lutheran World Relief

<http://www.lwr.org>
800-597-5972

the bishop's newsletter



<http://www.nebraskasynod.org>
402-896-5311



<http://www.nlom.org>
402-944-2544



<http://www.firstlutherankearney.org>
308-237-5544

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH



We give thanks to Keith Powell for his connections with the youth. If you want to get in contact with Keith here's his cell # (402) - 270 - 4914
kcp12001@hotmail.com



SUNDAY MORNINGS TOGETHER

9:50-10:30 AM LOWER LEVEL YOUTH ROOM

Join Dave Behle, Keith Powell & Friends **Canceled until further notice**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER

7:00-8:15 PM - ONLINE MEETING WITH KEITH

If parents would like their child to be included on the invite, please send Keith your email address at kcp12001@hotmail.com.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

All 2020 High School Seniors will be recognized at an 8:45 a.m. service at some point this summer. There will be a reception in between services in Centennial Hall. Please contact the church office or Jen Puls to ensure your student is on our list. Thank you!

2021 YOUTH GATHERING

Mark your calendars for 2021. Youth Gathering will be in Minneapolis from June 29, 2021 to July 2, 2021

FLC PRESCHOOL NEWS

3/4 YR. OLD/PRE-K CLASSROOM NEWS

Hello from Pre-k!!

We hope this article finds everyone safe and well and enjoying the beautiful warmer weather. This past month we have been teaching on-line and it has been great to interact with the class but it isn't the same for any of us.

This past month would of been our Graduation celebration but with the current situation we will be postponing it until we can safely gather together. Our hope is to celebrate sometime this summer.

The past few weeks we have been passing out packets for the children to work on along with our Zoom and Seesaw applications. Our focus is to keep the children engaged in learning. On Thursday May 14th we sent home the last packets and were able to see a few of the children at a distance. We hope and pray that in a month or so we can have the closure that they deserve after a wonderful Pre-K year.

We are so blessed with the greatest parents and children that cross our paths each year. The lasting friendships and memories that are made are such a gift that we never will forget. Thank you to all for the support you give our preschool program each and every year. As we set our sights on the up coming school year, we look back and thank God for the year we just finished and all it's blessings it brought us!

God Bless,

Mrs. Judy & Ms. Sonya



Registration

Enrollment is now open to Public
Spots still available



Hello First Lutheran Church!

Wow! Our school year is over and in some ways it dragged once we had to change our way of teaching and in some ways it still went fast!

After Easter, we learned about all the parts of an insect and how many legs they have. They had fun looking in their own backyard for the insects coming out. Mrs. Lora bought caterpillars and we watched each stage via Zoom. After the butterflies came, Mrs. Lora released them in cold weather.

Next, we celebrated our Earth and learned all the different ways we can take care of it. We asked families to sort trash by paper, plastics, cardboard, glass and metals. The children learned that reusing is important too. They also conserved energy and water at their home. Many families loved the book, "Michael Recycle".

The following weeks, we were reviewing the letters and numbers. Made fun cards for their mom and dad, when their special day comes. We made a book about things they like and are able to read it. The classes did a great job drawing themselves. Inside the book, is also a questionnaire that we asked the kids at the beginning of the year and another page shows how little their hands and feet were on the first week non school. It will be cute for their families to see how much they have changed!

This last week of preschool, we learned about the five senses. They had a blast smelling things and guessing what they were with their families. The students tasted things blindfolded and felt things without looking. The kids received a present of a kazoo and a book! Our last Zoom meeting we just sang songs, talked and ended playing our kazoos. We are truly going to miss these wonderful children!

We hope you feel you got a good taste of what we have been up to! God Bless and have a great summer!

Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Lora

PRESCHOOL GRADUATES



Ava Bostron



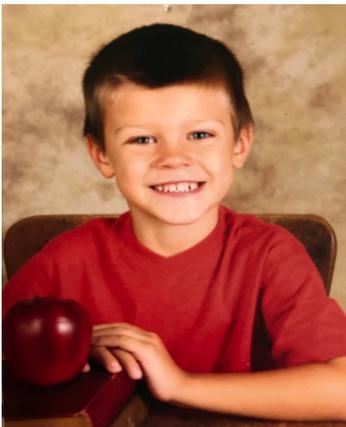
Bergen Dutcher



Maggie Essay



Brynlee Stolcpart



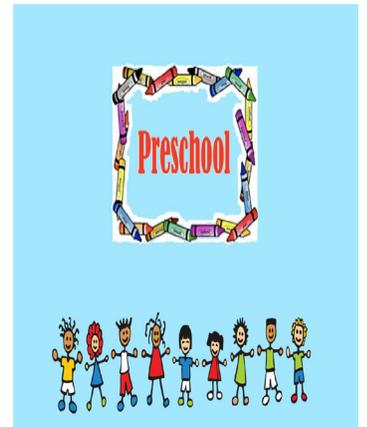
Jaxon Fehringer



Leighton Hinrichs



Kambri Kuecker



Oliver Linnemeyer



Aven O'Connor



Mae Reece



Tilly Reece



Beckitt Samuelson



Charleston Schroeder



Briella Stephens



Jovie Weaver

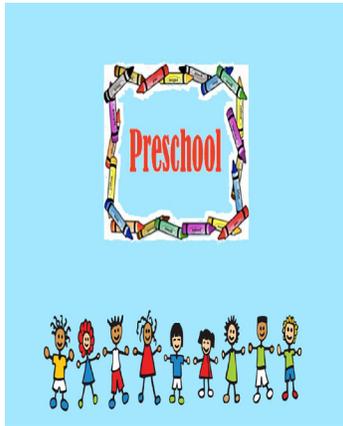


Seth Williams

PRESCHOOL GRADUATES



Collins Akerson



Audrey Bailey



Shaden Banzhaf



Beckett Bauer



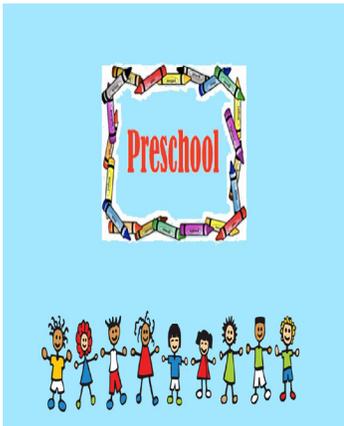
Chase Brown



Aiden Cooley



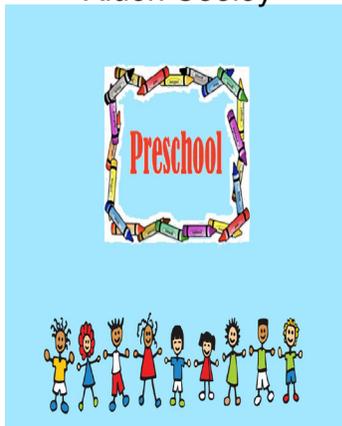
Madelyn Cooley



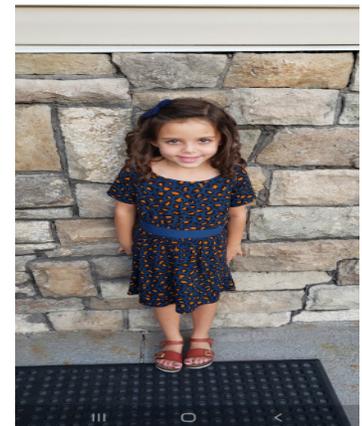
Hudson Eickman



Finley Fritzen



Livvy Johnson



Presley Kelly



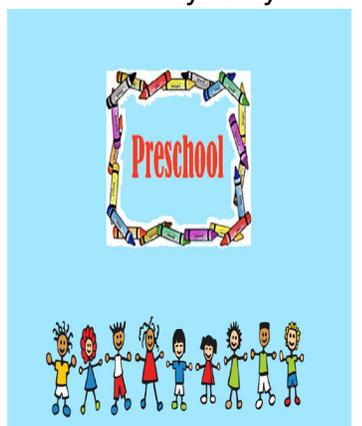
Emarie Krueger



Cohen Lueshen



Bennett Shipp



Amelia Stringham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Special Needs Fund: An Update and An Opportunity

First, a little history of the *Special Needs Fund*. You may remember this fund being referred to in the past as the “Pastor’s Fund.” Some churches call it a “Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.” For many years, First Lutheran used to take direct requests for help with utility bills, rent payments, medical bills, etc. Individuals from the community needing help would stop by the church office with a completed paper “grid” given to them by the Jubilee Center showing that they had already contacted several local agencies and had exhausted other possibilities to receive assistance.

The church would then provide financial help (up to \$100 per individual once per year) through the *Special Needs Fund* by making a payment on their behalf to their landlord or utility company, for example. In recent years, however, the number of requests grew so large (sometimes over 60 requests per year) that First Lutheran, as well as other churches in the community, worked with the Jubilee Center to set up a system where the churches provide the Jubilee Center with the funds, and then the Jubilee Center screens the requests and distributes assistance for those in need.

The *Special Needs Fund* is also used to provide assistance to First Lutheran congregation members who may confidentially contact the Pastors and request financial help due to hardship. Given the ongoing pandemic crisis, the need for assistance will likely grow in the coming months. Members are encouraged to contact our Pastors to request help due to such hardships.

Now, we have an opportunity. The Mission Outreach Team has designated the *Special Needs Fund* as their annual Summer Project for 2020. You may send a check to the Church Office and just write Special Needs Fund on the memo line. There will also be a *Special Needs Fund* collection box in the northwest entryway. Your generosity will allow us to continue to give a once a year gift to the Jubilee Center to disburse to community members who are in need, as well as members of our congregation. *The Special Needs fund* is just another example of how First Lutheran through the generous donations of its members is sharing God’s love and making a difference within the Kearney community. Thank you for your generosity!

Mission Outreach: Habitat for Humanity

The Mission Outreach team encourages the congregation to serve God through service to God’s people. Several First Lutheran Church members serve God’s people through Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity works with people who need homes to build affordable houses. A Habitat committee carefully selects homebuyers who are able to invest hundreds of hours of labor and to pay a home mortgage. Current, past, and future homeowners work together with Habitat volunteers to construct houses. Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity typically builds three homes each year. Current building sites are on east 17th street.

A typical Saturday building work day starts at 8 AM. Building committee members provide instruction and materials to newer volunteers. Volunteer work varies depending on the progress of each house. Tasks for novice and experienced workers are always available. At 9 AM, volunteers break for devotion and coffee. The morning devotions among volunteers working for God’s people are especially meaningful. Lunch is a fun time of fellowship with excellent meals provided by local churches and organizations. Saturday work ends around 2 PM. Volunteers leave with a sense of accomplishment at the progress on the houses, gratitude for the opportunity to serve, and awareness that they have shared God’s presence. Building activities were modified during the COVID epidemic, information about the construction schedule can be found at the local Habitat website (http://habitat.kearney.net/?utm_campaign=HFHI_AffiliateSearch&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=habitat.org).

First Lutheran Church is planning to provide lunch and volunteers to help build on June 27th. FLC will provide additional information about food preparation, possible food transportation options, and volunteer information in June. The build is currently tentative so updates regarding the June 27th FLC and Habitat activities will be provided in the Sunday morning announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **BUDGET FORUM**

- June 14, 2020

- 10:00 AM

- Zoom Meeting

- Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

You may also choose to call into the meeting:

1-312-626-6799

Contact the church office for the Meeting ID and Password if you want to call in to the meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

Congregational
Meeting

June 28, 2020



JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:45am - Worship	6pm - Mission 7pm - Grace Bible	7am - Sunrise 10:30am - Text 7pm - Congr.	7:02pm - Reading	10:30am - Staff	Pastors Day Off	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am - Worship	Messenger	7am - Sunrise 10:30am - Text 6:30pm -	7:02pm - Reading	10:30am - Staff	Pastors Day Off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45am - Worship 10am - Budget		7am - Sunrise 10:30am - Text 6:30pm -	7:02pm - Reading	10:30am - Staff 7:30pm - Naomi	Pastors Day Off	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45am - Worship	7pm - Worship	7am - Sunrise 10:30am - Text 6:30pm -	7:02pm - Reading	10:30am - Staff 7:30pm - Naomi	Pastors Day Off	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8:45am - Worship 11am - Outdoor 12pm - Annual		7am - Sunrise 10:30am - Text				

First Lutheran Church, ELCA

3315 G Avenue

Kearney, Nebraska 68847-3699

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RECEIVING
GOD'S GRACE

SHARING
GOD'S LOVE

UNITING
IN CHRIST



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2020

3315 G Avenue - Kearney, Nebraska 68847

PLEASE JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR WORSHIP TIMES

SATURDAY

6:00 PM

Worship with Communion

SUNDAY

8:45 AM

Worship with Communion

11:00 AM

Praise and Prayer with Communion

LIVE VIDEO STREAM BROADCAST SUNDAYS AT 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

LIVE RADIO BROADCAST SUNDAY MORNINGS 8:45 AM ON KXPB 1460 AM

PHONE: 308-237-5544

WEB: www.firstlutherankearney.org