



LEARNING MINISTRIES OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH-3 YEAR OLDS)

“Walking Wet” Parent and Child Play Dates – For our youngest members (Birth to age 3) and their parents. Receive tips and resources via monthly videos and in-person play dates on how to easily incorporate faith conversations and rituals into daily routines. Play dates help you and your little ones connect with others in the same stage of life and have face to face conversations about faith. Contact: Sharon Hardel

CHILDHOOD (3 YEAR OLDS to 5TH GRADE)

FaithTrek - Sunday morning Christian education for 3 year olds through 5th grade with a focus on Bible stories, prayer and service utilizing an experiential education style of learning where questions are welcomed and expected. Contact: Lindsey Boyle

Summer Vacation Bible School – Experience Bible stories through crafts, games, community engagement activities, music and story – challenging participants of all ages to grow in their calling as disciples of Christ. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Preschool & Elementary Parent Discussion Group – A gathering of parents of preschoolers and elementary age kids the first Sunday of the month (held simultaneously during preschool/elementary youth group time) to talk about issues related to their child’s faith formation. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Youth Group - Gather the first Sunday of the month to connect with and learn more about fellow youth to build relationships and be part of a community that shares a love for God and serves the local community. Contact: Sharon Hardel

ADOLESCENTS (6TH-8TH GRADE)

Middle School Learning – Sunday morning Christian education for 6th to 8th graders focusing on growing and living as a young disciples facing real life issues from a perspective of faith. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Confirmation: Dinner + Learning – (7-8th grade) Two-fold focus: 1) for confirmand to affirm her/his baptism and God’s work that has already been going on since baptism and 2) to help their parents/mentors fulfill their baptismal promise. Confirmation is about building relationships with parents and youth sharing and growing in faith together. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Youth Group - Gather monthly (usually on a Sunday) to connect with and learn more about fellow youth to build relationships and be part of a community that shares a love for God and serves the local community. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Youth Accompaniment Experience - A trip outside of familiar territory leads to a journey outside of comfort zones and experiencing God at the margins of life. This summer trip has more to do with how our young people are in the world and less about the projects accomplished. Contact: Sharon Hardel

TEENS (9th-12th GRADE)

High School Learning – Sunday morning Christian education for 9th to 12th graders with an emphasis on current event, cultural awareness, Bible study, difficult topics and God in daily life. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Youth Group - Gather weekly (usually Sundays from 6-8 pm) to connect with and learn more about fellow youth to build relationships and be part of a community that shares a love for God and serves the local community. Contact: Sharon Hardel

LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska) Retreat & Trip (For High School Youth Only) – Connect with Lutheran youth across Nebraska for Synod-wide activities and engagement. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Youth Accompaniment Experience - A trip outside of familiar territory leads to a journey outside of comfort zones and experiencing God at the margins of life. This summer trip has more to do with how our young people are in the world and less about the projects accomplished. Contact: Sharon Hardel

EARLY-MATURE ADULTHOOD

Adult Forum - Learn about a variety of topics every Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 am that are relevant to our Christian faith and how they influence our growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. Please share ideas you have for speakers or topics you would like to explore in Adult Forum. Contact: Connie Kisling

Seniors Ministry– Come to a quarterly lunch with programming intended for senior adults. Contact: Pastor Steve Griffith

Creation Care Workshops – Educational opportunities, special events and presentations aimed at helping us all take care of all God's creation. Contact: Rebecca Pfabe

Spiritual Formation Workshops - Come and deepen your spirituality. Past topics have included Prayer Beads, Prayer Flags, Praying in Color, etc. Contact: Denise Mainquist

English Tutoring - Partner with an English Language Learner as an English tutor/teacher on Sundays during the learning hour or during the week. Contact: Barb Johnson Frank

Accompaniment Trips (Holy Land, Tanzania, Argentina & Uruguay) - Join members and friends of the Nebraska Synod on a journey to the Holy Land (Israel, Modern Palestine, Jordan). Offered through the Nebraska Synod, Nebraska Synod Holy Land Accompaniment and the Synod Global Mission Team. Contact: Stephanie Lusinski of Nebraska Synod

Book Discussion - See faith in the real world and in the lives of the characters in current best sellers and "everyone is reading" books. Authors and books vary. Contact: Shari Sorenson

Harbor Coffee Talk - Gather to talk about the Sunday sermon or a current event on Mondays at the Harbor Coffee Shop (located at 1265 S. Cotner Blvd) from 1:30-2:30 pm. Contact: Sharon Hardel

A Few Good Men - Tuesday mornings at 6:30 am, a group of men gather to chat about life, faith or a book they are reading together. Contact: Lee Rockwell

Faith to Go! - Eat a light breakfast and learn more about one of your fellow congregants and how they live out their faith in daily life. Held at 6:30 am mornings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Contact: Tera Beermann

Saturday with the Guys - Join a group of guys who study and discuss a book together on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Open to men of all ages. Contact: Jim Kisling or Mitch Snyder

Women's Circles – Attend a monthly women's circle for fellowship, relationship building, projects and spiritual development. Contact: Cyndi Crouse

Tuesday Bible Study - Each Tuesday evening at 5:45 pm, join the conversational study of scripture, exploring how the Living Word continues to speak to and impacts our daily lives. You can join the conversation at any time without previous Bible study experience. Contact: Pastor Steve Griffith

Wednesday Bible Study- This interactive and participatory Bible study every Wednesday at 10:45 am dives deep into our sacred text to understand it on a personal and communal level. You can join this study at any time without previous experience. Contact: Pastor Steve Griffith

Gather & Gab – A weekly online discussion group that uses *Wired Word* to guide their discussion. *Wired Word* focuses on a news story from the previous week and allows participants to have a conversation about their role in society as Christians, to think outside the box, wrestle with difficult issues and consider ways they might respond to the world around them. Open to high school age or older and join as your schedule allows. Meets every Thursday from 8:00-9:00 pm. Contact: Sharon Hardel



SERVING MINISTRIES OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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TEACH AND MENTOR

Vacation Bible School Volunteer - Help with decorating, registration, crafts, games, music, storytelling, snacks or drama. Be a group leader or maybe you have another gift or talent we can use! Contact: Sharon Hardel

FaithTrek Guide – Serve as a facilitator for the Sunday morning learning hour (Sunday School). A team of guides are assigned a specific age group, 3 year olds through 5th grade, with two adults serving each Sunday. Curriculum, training and support provided. Contact: Lindsey Boyle

Middle School Learning Leader – This is a privileged opportunity to engage with adolescents who are growing as disciples at the intersection of their faith and the world around them. The role is more of a facilitator of a conversation than an expert in religion. Training provided. Contact: Sharon Hardel

High School Learning Leader - This is a privileged opportunity to engage with adolescents who are growing as disciples at the intersection of their faith and the world around them. The role is more of a facilitator of a conversation than an expert in religion. Training provided. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Youth Group Helper – Assist (e.g. drive, chaperone, help with special events), as needed, with the preschool/elementary, middle school and high school youth groups. Contact: Sharon Hardel

HUNGER AND CLOTHING MINISTRIES

CROP Walk - Raise money to support local and international hunger relief programs. This annual city-wide effort is the 2nd Sunday of October. Contact: Sandy Latshaw

Lutheran Food Pantry - Donate non-perishable food and personal care items to be distributed by the pantry. Place items in the grocery cart located by the Chapel. Contact: Steve Lenzen

Bridges to Hope - This agency, as part of the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA, assists individuals being released from prison. To donate clothing, furniture or other items, call 402-420-5696.

Fresh Start - Donate clothing and household items to this transitional shelter for homeless women. Contact: Karen Lenzen

Matt Talbot Outreach Kitchen - Donate fruit and dessert items for a monthly meal for Lincoln's homeless and working poor. Come help with advance food preparation and/or serving the meal. Contact: Steve Lenzen

Food Bank Food Market - Volunteer at Lincoln High's Food Market. Set food out, direct and support students and pack up leftover food from 2:30-4:00 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Contact: Kathy Dickey

Food Bank Backpack Program - Provide financial and volunteer support to provide a food-filled backpack every Friday for families at two LPS elementary schools. Contact: Kathy Dickey

Meals on Wheels - Deliver meals to home bound seniors needing this service. First Lutheran has regular Sunday routes or contact Tabitha for a route that works for you. Contact: Sandy Latshaw

Kicks for Kids - A fall project to provide new shoes and socks for elementary aged children identified by their teachers. Take a tag, which matches a specific child, purchase the needed items and return them to the church for distribution. Contact: Donice Kaspar

CARE MINISTRIES

Funeral Lunches - Help provide and/or serve a funeral lunch as we assist families in grief by providing a place to gather and fellowship with family and friends. Contact: Cindy Timperley or Robin Westhoff

Casserole Caravan - Deliver a meal or treat to those just home from the hospital from illness, surgery or birth and families dealing with a death or family crisis. Contact: Gay Sutter

Prayer Shawls and Afghans – Combine a love of knitting or crocheting creating prayer shawls and afghans for those in need of comfort, as well as in celebration and joy. Not a stitcher? Be a delivery person taking a shawl or afghan to someone in need. Contact: Jan Mares to be a stitcher or Pastor Marsha Anderson to deliver.

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one Christian caring relationship for anyone who is going through a rough patch, pain, or struggle in life. It's not a ministry of giving answers, rather it's a ministry of listening with care, asking reflective questions and "holding space" for someone else. Training provided. Contact: Faye Doolittle

Visitation Ministry- Share your time and provide a bright spot in a homebound person's day. Contact: Pastor Steve Griffith

Eucharistic Ministry - Take communion to those homebound or recovering from illness or injury and not able to join us for worship. Contact: Harold Sutter

Grief Support – Grief after the death of a loved one is hard to go through alone. If you find yourself in this situation, join our grief support class that meets several times during the year. Contact: Judy Bailey

Transportation Ministry – Drive members to medical and other appointments or church activities. Contact: Linda Maack

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Tanzania Health Projects - First Lutheran supports two student nurses and has helped with other health projects, such as Houses for Health. Donations appreciated - \$1700 gift covers expenses for the year. Contact: Karen Clementson

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - A quilt brings warmth on a cold night, shelter from the sun, creates a bed or room divider. Quilts assembled throughout the year are shipped to Lutheran World Relief for distribution at home and abroad. Quilters and donations of specific materials are appreciated. No previous quilting experience needed. Contact: Phyllis Frickel

Fair Trade - Help with sales or purchasing Fair Trade products which support the farmers who actually produce them. Products are normally available for purchase the first Sunday of the month, but are also available any time the church office is open. Contact: Faye Doolittle

AMMPARO / Guardian Angels – AMMPARO (Accompanying Minor Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) is an initiative of the ELCA grounded in advocacy and supporting migrant children and their families. Learn about and participate in our efforts to respond to the effects of global human migration and how you can be trained to be a juvenile immigration watcher (Guardian Angel). Contact: Tyler Darnell of Nebraska Synod

Immigrant & Refugee Support – Work with local refugee resettlement and other immigrant support programs. Donate furniture and household items, provide transportation, help with school work, provide support navigating systems or be a friend and enjoy building a relationship with a newcomer. Contact: Judy Bailey

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fellowship Events – Plan and implement fellowship events throughout the year. Contact: LuAnn Snyder

God's Work Our Hands – Once a year we gather as a congregation, along with thousands of ELCA congregations, and leave the building in mass to serve the community. Help needed on the planning side. Contact: Karen Lenzen

Gifts of Hope Alternative Market - This market, held the first weekend of December, provides alternatives to traditional Christmas gift shopping. Planning help is needed, along with people to be at a giving station during the market. Contact: Barb Johnson Frank

OCCASIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Usher for Funerals – Help at funerals be serving as an usher and welcoming family and friends at a time of sadness. Contact: Pastor Steve Griffith

Nursery Coverage – Provide coverage in our nursery during Sunday worship and the learning hour (9:30-10:30 am). We also need occasional coverage for special events during the week. Contact: Sharon Hardel

Office Support – Help with small mailing projects, making phone calls or providing office coverage on Mondays. Contact: Cyndi Crouse

Bulletin Crew – Help assemble bulletins for Sunday worship. Commit to 1-2 hours on a Thursday evening or Friday during office hours. You can select your own hours. Contact: Cyndi Crouse

General Maintenance and Property Projects - Painting, yard work, minor repairs, moving furniture around and cleaning projects keep our building safe, welcoming and beautiful. Contact: Steve Lenzen



WORSHIP AND PRAYER MINISTRIES OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ASSIST

Bible Bearer - Carry the lectionary Bible into the worship service in the procession and carry it out in the recessional. Contact: Harold Sutter

Crucifier - Carry the cross in the processional and recessional. Contact: Harold Sutter

Acolyte - Light candles and receive the offering during the offertory. Contact: Harold Sutter

Reader - Read the first and second lessons and occasionally lead the psalm in the worship service. Contact: Harold Sutter

Communion Assistant - Participate in the processional and recessional and pour the wine during communion. Contact: Harold Sutter

Communion Presenter - A wonderful opportunity for our youngest (3 year olds-5th grade)! Carry the bread and wine forward with the ushers when they bring up the offering. Instructions and a signup sheet can be found on the kiosk in the Commons. Contact: Lindsey Boyle

Assisting Minister - Assist the Pastor with the prayers, set the Communion table and deliver Communion to the people who remain in pews. Contact: Harold Sutter

Usher - Distribute worship bulletins, collect the offering, direct people to the communion rail and provide security during the worship service. Contact: Harold Sutter

Greeter - Greet worshipers as they enter the church at each entrance. Perfect for a couple or family to do together. Contact: Harold Sutter

Live Stream Worship Assistant - Assist with live streaming worship on Sunday mornings at 8:15 am. Contact: Kathleen Simley

Altar Guild (Communion Set Up and Clean Up) - Set up the communion elements before worship and then clean the dishes and glasses and chancel area following the worship services. Contact: Molly Goninan

Wash Robes/Albs - Wash worship robes/albs monthly. Check the robes frequently so they can be washed more, if needed. Contact: Gay Sutter

Children's Worship Baskets - Come in anytime during the week to sort through and prepare worship baskets for children. Contact: Sharon Hardel

MUSIC

Choir Member – Each choir welcomes all who are willing to gather their voices in praise. Adult Choir (high school and up) encourages congregational singing and offers an anthem to lead deeper reflection to the Words shared. The Adult Choir sings most Sundays, except the first Sunday of the month. The Chorister Choir (Grade 3-6) sings 1 or 2 times a month and the Cherub Choir (K-2) sings the 3rd Sunday of the month. All choirs rehearse every Wednesday during the school year. Contact: Boyd or Masako Bacon

Soloist or Cantor - Lead singing of the Psalm, sing during Communion or occasionally during the Offering. Contact: Masako Bacon

Vocal Ensembles (Middle/High School Age, Men's Chorus, Women's Choir) – Add your voice to special vocal ensembles and offer worship music several times a year. Contact: Boyd Bacon

Handbells - Spirit Ringers rehearse every Thursday and play on the 3rd Sunday and other festive Sundays. Youth Bells are scheduled as a short term group. Contact: Masako Bacon

Jazz Team - Play several times a year for worship and rehearse a few times prior to the Sunday. Contact: Boyd Bacon

String Ensemble and Orchestra- Play several times a year and rehearse a few times prior to the Sunday. Contact: Masako Bacon

Brass Ensemble - Consists of a larger group of people with different level of playing skills. Contact: Boyd Bacon

Wind Ensemble - Meet a few times before scheduled Sundays. Contact: Masako Bacon

PRAYER

Worship Regularly - Gather weekly with our faith community for worship and prayer in-person or virtually through our live stream worship.

Pray Daily – Offer prayer each day for family, faith community and the needs of the world. Contact: Cyndi Crouse

Prayer Learning Opportunities - Opportunities are offered periodically on how to deepen one's prayer life. Contact: Denise Mainquist

Prayer Team - Receive a weekly list of those needing prayers within and beyond the congregation. Pray daily for those on the list. Contact: Cyndi Crouse