



THE VOICE

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH / OCTOBER 2021



What's Next

by Pastor Erin Heidelberger

No doubt many of you are wondering when we will begin the call process for a new Associate Pastor or Deacon. Fortunately, we are in a good place where we don't have to rush into that process. We are blessed to have Pastor Susanna here for at least the next several months as our Transitional Associate Minister and there's good reason not to hurry. There is no standard timeline to start the process once a Lead Pastor is in place. So, together, we get to take some deep breaths. This is a good time to be reminded, as we hear from the writer of Job, that "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty

gives me life." Our good and faithful Creator will continue to breathe life into us and into this community of faith, even in those times when we are anxious for what lies ahead.

For now, we have some breathing room. We have the space to intentionally take pause, pray and discern how to move forward with our staffing at First Lutheran. That will allow me to get to know this congregation and its needs. We also have questions to explore about what ministry looks like in a post-pandemic world. The best thing we can do now is to pray for the guidance and discernment of the Holy Spirit in our exploring and questioning.

www.flclincoln.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Intergenerational Event:
Meet Your Siblings in
Christ

CROP Walk to Help Feed
the Hungry

Gifts of Hope: A Non-
Traditional Tradition

Animal Blessing

New Member Classes
Offered

Soft Capital Campaign a
Tremendous Success

"We Welcome All" Video
Premieres

Allowing Children to Experience the Joys of Learning

BY MICHELLE ZIMMER

DIMENSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Fall is among us and everyone is settling into the new school year. There is always so much excitement and discovery as the seasons change. It is fun to watch the amazement and joy as children learn from experiences that we as adults often take for granted. Dimensions is lucky to have teachers who notice and support those learning moments with children everyday.

Here are a few ways that teachers share those learning moments with families; each group has their own private Facebook page, each child has their own portfolio, emails are sent on a regular basis and offer the



The children "supervised" First Lutheran volunteers during a construction project.

opportunity for parents to meet with teachers in September and January during Parent/Teacher Conferences. A huge thank you to our teachers for everything they do to help children find the joy in learning and connect and share with families!

Intergenerational Event: Meet Your Siblings in Christ

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3; 9:30-10:30 AM; ACTIVITY CENTER

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Intergenerational means all ages so everyone is welcome!

October's learning word of the month is Baptism. At Baptism we are welcomed into a whole new family - our church family. This intergenerational event will give us a chance to get to know our church family and live into the promises we all made (or were made for us) at our Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism - to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We will have some ice breakers to get better acquainted and have time for *(continued on page 3)*

www.flclincoln.org

ADULT LEARNING

Adult Forum

Sundays; 9:30-10:30 am; Chapel & Zoom

Info: connie.kisling@gmail.com

Recordings at <https://vimeo.com/flclincoln>

October 3 - Intergenerational Faith Formation Event.

October 10 - "Get to Know" Pastor Susanna DesMarais, Transitional Associate Pastor.

October 24 - Forum Attendee Input. Offer input into our Mission Statement and a possible new Title/Brand for the existing Adult Forum.

October 31 - Finding Home in Flyover Country: A Photographer's Journey - Mike Forsberg, professional photographer. Mike will share his personal story charting a career in conservation with his camera.

Bible Studies - Tuesdays 5:45 pm and Wednesdays 10:45 am; Zoom & In-Person

Tuesday's group is studying the Gospel of Luke and Wednesday's group is studying the book of Proverbs. Join in anytime!

Info: pastorerin@flclincoln.org

Coffee Talk - Mondays; 1:30 pm; In-Person; Location varies weekly
Info: sharon@flclincoln.org

A Few Good Men Bible Study - Tuesdays; 7:00 am; Zoom
Info: rockwell@windstream.net

Faith to Go! - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays; 6:30 am; Zoom
Info: tlbeermann@hotmail.com

Gather and Gab - Thursdays; 8:00 pm; Zoom
Info: sharon@flclincoln.org

Saturday with the Guys - 2nd Saturday; 8:00 am; In-Person
Info: jim.kisling@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study Circles - Varying times and dates
Info: cyndi@flclincoln.org

Intergenerational Event: Meet Your Siblings in Christ (cont.)

(continued from page 2) conversations and some hands-on activities, like making bookmarks with our favorite Bible verses, cutting and tying blankets for children in the hospital and making cards for our shut ins and college students. We need all ages to participate. Older youth and adults can help the younger students write messages and verses while the younger children can share some of their energy and enthusiasm with those of us who are older and wish we had more.



Confirmation: Dinner+Learning

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 6 AND 20; 6:00 PM; ROBERTS PARK

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

During the month of October, we will be exploring "Who is God?" We will continue meeting at Roberts Park as weather permits. Any adult members are welcome to join the 7th and 8th graders and their parents if they would like to have a refresher course or have never been through a Lutheran Confirmation program in the past.



Middle & High School Learning

SUNDAYS; 9:30-10:30 AM

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

On Sunday, October 3, we will meet in the Activity Center for the Intergenerational Event. During the remaining Sundays of the month, we will dive into the five promises connected with the word of the month - Baptism (or "Affirmation of Baptism" for those who will be Confirmed at the end of October.). We will continue meeting outside in the back parking lot of church as weather permits.



FaithTrek News

SUNDAYS; 9:30-10:30 AM

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Our October word of the month is Baptism. We will spend time learning how we can fulfill the promises made for us at baptism. We will kick off our month of learning with an intergenerational event on October 3 in the Activity Center at 9:30 am. All ages are invited! We look forward to seeing all kids, ages 3 through 5th grade, as we reflect on our word of the month together! There will be no FaithTrek on Sunday, October 17, due to fall break.

CROP Walk to Help Feed the Hungry

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10; 1:00 PM; BETHANY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 1645 NORTH COTNER BLVD.; OR WALK AT YOUR CONVENIENCE ONE WEEK BEFORE OR AFTER REGISTER AT WWW.CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG/LINCOLNNE INFO: SANDY LATSHAW; SJLATSHAW@OUTLOOK.COM

Consider supporting a First Lutheran Walker in the annual CROP Hunger Walk as we join with others in Lincoln and Lancaster County to end hunger globally and locally! Working through the Church World Service Zero Hunger Initiative, \$15 provides home gardening for a family, \$24 buys chickens for a family, \$90 equips farmers for a coffee crop and \$115 builds a family latrine. Locally, your donation supports the work of Tabitha Meals on Wheels, Eastridge Food Pantry, Norris Food Pantry, the Indian Center and other food agencies.



Due to the current COVID precautions, we are asking you to visit the Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk website to support a First Lutheran walker. Click 'Donate' at the top of the page, select 'Find a Participant or Team to Support', type in First Lutheran Church Lincoln and click on our church link. Select a team member to 'Donate' or 'Join The Team' and invite friends and family to support you! If you prefer to make a donation in person, cash or checks written to First Lutheran Church, with CROP Walk written on the Memo line at the bottom, may be given directly to a First Lutheran walker or left at the church office.

Another Successful Kicks for Kids Campaign

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 3

INFO: DONICE KASPAR; DTKASPAR@WINDSTREAM.NET

Thank you for "stepping up" to make Kicks for Kids a success! Numbers are still coming in, but the response from our congregation has once again been so positive. People are donating money and buying athletic shoes, high schoolers are helping to order shoes online and FaithTrek children have sorted socks. Wow! This is truly an example of moving "Forward Together at First!" We are still accepting money donations, and if you took a Shoe Tag, please return shoes to church by October 3. Thank you for helping our community kids in need!

Noisy Offering to Help Afghan Refugees

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3; DURING WORSHIP

INFO: [LUTHERAN FAMILYSERVICES](http://LUTHERANFAMILYSERVICES)



Lutheran Family Services (LFS) needs our help to welcome refugees from Afghanistan who are seeking safety and security. LFS is committed to helping them find safety, hope and well-being, including a place to live and furnishings, clothes, food, transportation and meeting all the daily needs so many of us take for granted. Our Noisy Offering in October will support the refugee efforts of Lutheran Family Services. Our September Noisy Offering for Lutheran Disaster Response's wildfire relief totaled \$173.82. Thank you!

Gifts of Hope Market: A Non-Traditional Tradition

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

INFO: BARB JOHNSON FRANK; BJOHNSONFRANK@GMAIL.COM

First Lutheran's Gifts of Hope Market, offered annually during the first weekend in December, is a creative outreach that encourages holiday shoppers to choose "gifts that give twice." This year you can look forward to:

- A variety of gifts offered by more than a dozen local, regional and international partners
- Seven new non-profits, plus updated lists from favorite partners
- Gifts that can be wrapped and/or donations - all life-giving
- Interactive online catalog shopping, with drive-up or mailing available
- In-person market featuring educational displays on December 5



Care for God's Creation by Recycling

INFO: REBECCA PFABE; RPFABE16@GMAIL.COM

First Lutheran has a wonderful history of caring for God's creation. One way we do that is through recycling. There are blue recycling containers throughout the church. Below are the items our recycling provider can pick up (and can't pick up). If there are things you have that we can't recycle through First Lutheran, please consider bringing them to a city recycling drop off site (if accepted). Please, please make sure that items put in our recycling bins are clean or rinsed out (we don't want bugs in our church!). If you are involved in any groups that use our church, please encourage recycling! Thank you for your help!

- Aluminum cans and foil
- Tin cans
- All plastics #1 - #7 (except automotive containers)
- All paper products (newspaper, mail, office paper, envelopes, etc.)
- Cardboard
- Paperboard, paperbooks, magazines



*Lids and labels can be left on and if the container held food or beverage, please rinse out.

Recycling Tip

Recyclable plastic usually comes with a number in the center of the recycling symbol, ranging from 1-7. The number is a resin identification code identifying what kind of plastic it is and helps recycling plants sort materials.

www.flclincoln.org

Middle & High School Youth Group

1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS; 6:00-8:00 PM

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

October 3: Play some Co-op games and create your own art project as we each remember our baptism / affirmation of baptism promises. We may also be helping to order shoes online for Kicks for Kids.

October 17: Enjoy a scavenger hunt! We will also continue planning our summer accompaniment trip. We need parent volunteers to drive for our hunt. Contact Sharon if you can help.

Biospiritual Focusing Learning Session to be Offered

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13; 9:00 AM; CHAPEL

INFO: DENISE MAINQUIST; DEEMAIN12564@YAHOO.COM OR CAROL OLSON; CAROLINROMA@YAHOO.COM

Biospiritual Focusing (BSF) is a holistic spiritual practice that includes attention to the entire body, not just the mind, as a way of connecting with the Divine. As Christians we share with Jesus the two natures of Human and Divine. Most of us have likely not learned how to be in tune with and nurture this connection via awareness of the body. We tend to stay within the confines of the mind in order to understand, 'figure out' and cope with events in our daily lives. In the BSF way of praying, we include all aspects of our physical body: sensations, pain, emotions, feelings and memories. We learn how to be with the reality of the present moment, no matter how small or how overwhelming they may seem. BSF is an invitation to notice and nurture the deeper wisdom present within each of our bodies. We learn how to be caring and loving towards ourselves with the greater goal of being caring and loving towards all.

First Lutheran members, Denise Mainquist and Carol Olson, have both received training in this spiritual practice and are offering a half-day practice and learning session. There will be ample time for sharing, reflection and questions both during and after the event. Please contact Carol or Denise to register for this free event. Invite your friends and others who may be interested.

Care Callers Connecting with Every Household

INFO: BARB JOHNSON FRANK; BJOHNSONFRANK@GMAIL.COM OR EUNICE FISHER; B_EFISHER@YAHOO.COM

This fall, 25 members of First Lutheran said a big, 'Yes!', to the opportunity to be part of a phone outreach to every household in the congregation. Their Care Calls invited responses to several questions:

- How are things going?
- What are your hopes and dreams for First Lutheran?
- Where do you most need your congregation to walk alongside you in the months ahead?

If a Care Caller was unable to connect with you by phone or if additional thoughts came to mind after your phone conversation, contact cyndi@flclincoln.org, or caller organizers Eunice Fischer or Barb Johnson Frank. First Lutheran staff and Congregation Council members will receive a summary of the insights gathered (names of members will not be shared) for their use in planning.

Animal Blessing

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2; 10:00 AM; PORTICO

INFO: PASTORSUSANNA@FLCLINCOLN.ORG



One day a year we have a chance to officially bless our furry (or scaly or feathered) friends at church as we celebrate the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi (12-13th c.) This celebration includes a blessing of the animals. This year we are asking you to bring a donation of dog or cat food (wet or dry) to be donated to the Pieloch Pet Adoption Center (Capital Humane Society). Join us as we return the blessing to our sweet companions in life.

www.flclincoln.org

Soft Capital Campaign a Tremendous Success

INFO: BRYAN@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Our 'soft' follow-up capital campaign has been a tremendous success thanks to all who have contributed! To date, a total of \$681,777 has been pledged. These funds will be used to pay the mortgage payments through 2024, in addition to making \$350,000 of pre-payments on the mortgage balance. This strategy will provide us with two benefits - drive down the mortgage payment to a level that we can then include in our 2025 operating budget while also saving thousands of dollars in interest expense by paying the mortgage off sooner! Even though the campaign has officially ended contributions can still be made. Contact Bryan Hanson if you have any questions.

Member Happenings

Sympathies to the family of Dorothy Bruegmann who passed away September 4 and to Barbara Anderson on the passing of her husband, Pastor Dennis Anderson, on September 23. Dennis served as Interim Lead Pastor at First Lutheran in 2012.

New Member Classes Offered

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AND NOVEMBER 14; 9:30 AM
INFO: PASTORERIN@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Are you or someone you know looking for a faith community who invites and welcomes all, has a tradition of serving others outside its walls and views faith formation as a lifelong learning process? If so, then First Lutheran may be what you are looking for. We are offering new member classes that will give you the opportunity to explore First Lutheran. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, November 21.

www.flclincoln.org

Music Ministry News

INFO: MASKAO BACON; MUSIC@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Our worship music schedule in October includes:

October 3 – Jazz Team (8:15 am & 10:45 am)

October 10 – Chorister Choir (8:15 am) / Adult Choir (10:45 am)

October 17 – Spirit Ringers (8:15 & 10:45 am) / Adult Choir (10:45 am)

October 24 – Adult Choir & Chorister Choir (10:45 am)

October 31 - Brass (8:15 & 10:45 am) / Adult Choir (10:45 am)

Sing in a Choir

Cherub Choir (K-2) - Wednesdays; 5:00-5:45 pm

Chorister Choir (3-6) - Wednesdays; 5:00-5:45 pm

Adult Choir (high school and up) - Wednesdays; 7:10-8:10 pm

Intergenerational Handbell Choir

Gather, learn and praise with bells together! This is a new group forming. If you are interested in playing handbells, with little or no experience, then this group is perfect for you. We will find a time that works for the participants and will meet regularly.

Share Your Gifts in Short Commitment Groups

The following groups will meet for 1-3 rehearsals prior to the Sunday they play in worship:

String Ensemble

Brass Ensemble

Orchestra

Youth Jazz Team

Youth Camerata (singing & instruments)

Contact Maskao if you are interested.



"Forward Together at First" Stewardship Campaign Launches

COMMITMENT SUNDAY; OCTOBER 24

COMPLETE ONLINE DISCIPLESHIP PLAN AND PLEDGE CARD AT WWW.FLCLINCOLN.ORG/STEWARDSHIP
INFO: MARK WEMHOFF; MARKWEMHOFF@GMAIL.COM

Our 2021 Stewardship campaign is off and running with the theme, *Forward Together at First*. It reminds us that we are all being called to move forward – together – with a renewed vision, energy, commitment and sense of community. We invite you to look forward and discern your call to worship, pray, learn and serve as a disciple in the coming year. Please complete your online Discipleship Plan and pledge card for 2022. If you need a Discipleship Plan or pledge card mailed to you, please contact Cyndi in the office.



We will celebrate Commitment Sunday on October 24. However, due to COVID we do not plan to have our annual Stewardship Dinner. Instead, we will donate the estimated \$500 expense of the dinner to the Lutheran Food Pantry like was done last year. In addition to this \$500 donation, we have had some anonymous donors come forward and say they will match this donation if the number of completed pledges received by October 31 is equal to or greater than 125 pledge cards. Therefore, if at least 125 pledges are received by October 31 this year, the matched amount will increase the total donation to the Lutheran Food Pantry to \$1,000!

Thank You, Lindsey

Lindsey Boyle, our FaithTrek Coordinator for the past 18 months, has accepted a teaching job at Fredstrom Elementary School in Lincoln. We want to thank Lindsey for serving our youngest members and families, especially during the pandemic, and for continuing to serve in a volunteer capacity. Thank you!



Welcome, Pastor Susanna

INFO: PASTORSUSANNA@FLCLINCOLN.ORG



We warmly welcome Rev. Susanna DesMarais as our new part-time Transitional Associate Pastor! Pastor Susanna served 9+ years as the rector (same as a Senior Pastor) of Church of the

Holy Trinity in Lincoln. After her retirement in May, 2020, she found herself drawn to First Lutheran and when in-person worship began she started coming to First regularly. Pastor Susanna sums up her call to First Lutheran best, "I love being in the pew, but apparently God has different plans for me, at least for now. I am thrilled to be joining you as a Transitional Associate Pastor to Pastor Erin and all of you.

"We Welcome All" Video Premieres

VISIT WWW.FLCLINCOLN.ORG

During the call process for our new Lead Pastor, Call Committee members requested a video be produced to share with final candidates that showcased our renovated building. The purpose of the video was to help candidates understand the importance of our welcome statement and how it influenced the building project, as well as give them the opportunity to see our building since in-person visits weren't possible due to COVID. The video was recently updated and is now highlighted on the homepage of our website. Thank you to Call Committee members - Wendy Bonaiuto, Steve Eicher, Dave Schmitter, Grace Monson, Amy Tipton and Bol Ngok - for their willingness to be featured in the video; to First Lutheran member, Steve Dickey, for recording aerial video; and Communications Director, Kathleen Simley, for producing the video.

Messages of Gratitude

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement Pastor Bill received! Also for the numerous cards and visits! You really know how to make a person feel loved and cared for. Thanks for the many prayers and thoughts! ~Pastor Bill and Judy Peterson

Thanks for your gift of \$1,750 to the Food Bank of Lincoln. We are grateful for your friendship and support and promise to put your gifts to good use. ~Michelle Kumke, President & CEO; Food Bank of Lincoln

Foster Care Closet is very grateful for your gift of \$196.24 to the children entering the foster care system. These children often come with their sole possessions in an old pillow case. Your gift will help them select new clothes and leave knowing there are people who care for them and will help in their time of crises. ~Foster Care Closet of Lincoln

Affirmation of Baptism

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31; 10:45 AM



Seven of First Lutheran's youth will affirm their baptism on Reformation Sunday: Trevor Brinkman, Jareth Kuhlmann, Caleb Ruch, Tate Sandman, Trey Shoemaker, William Schafer and Myles Thorpe. Please join us for the service (wear your red!) and congratulate these young men as they take this important step on their faith journey.



[First Things](#)
[First E-Newsletter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Livestream](#)
[Worship](#)

Each person is a unique creation of God and, through grace, is a child of God. The people of First Lutheran Church welcome all because God welcomes all, without regard for race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status, physical or mental challenges, imprisonment, addictions, socio-economic circumstances, or anything else that too often divides us. First Lutheran Church is a spiritual community that celebrates the gifts of God that can empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Our unity is in Christ.

The Voice is a monthly publication of First Lutheran Church - 1551 S. 70th Street - Lincoln, NE 68506 - 402.488.0919 - www.flclincoln.org