



FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH

# MESSENGER

love all ● live spiritually ● rejoice in hope ● show hospitality

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## There Our Hearts Will Be

This year we are making stewardship our focus once a month from July through September, followed by a traditional campaign in October. Our stewardship theme this year is **“There Our Hearts Will Be”**.

Over the next few months, we will discover that faithful stewardship is not primarily about money – it is about placing our hearts in God’s hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices and resources will follow.

We’ll kick-off our **“There Our Hearts Will Be”** stewardship campaign, on Sunday, July 19, focusing on a passage from Deuteronomy 6:4-9.



May the Spirit of God be with you,  
The Finance Team

### Lincoln First Christian Church **Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale**

**August 6-8**  
430 S. 16th St., Lincoln NE 68508  
All Proceeds Benefit Kamp Kaleo!  
Contact the Church Office to  
Donate or Volunteer

KAMP KALEO Rummage Sale  
At FCC Lincoln  
July 31 to August 4 - Preparation  
August 6 to August 8 - SALE!!!  
August 8 & 9 - Pack-up

We can take all kinds of household items in clean, usable condition. We CANNOT accept outdated baby equipment, non-digital TVs, computer monitors, clothing, encyclopedias or hymnals, exercise equipment or heavy furniture.

Donations will be accepted at the church gym on Saturday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, August 2, Noon-4 p.m., Monday & Tuesday, August 3 & 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (evenings arranged by appointment). Lots of volunteers needed!

We'll need lots of volunteers for this Kamp Kaleo fundraiser; please reach out to D'Arcy Blosser or Sue Shear, if you are able to help! And share the sale dates with your friends, families and neighbors!



### SPIRITED READERS

COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY  
A CHAPTER BY CHAPTER  
DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK

now and not yet

By Ruth Chou Simons

**4TH TUESDAY EACH MONTH**– 6:30-8 pm

- **Next Meeting is July 28th**

LOCATION:

THE MILL @ TELEGRAPH, 330 S. 21st St

No RSVP needed,

call with questions: 402-475-4289

Website: fclincoln.org



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

“God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

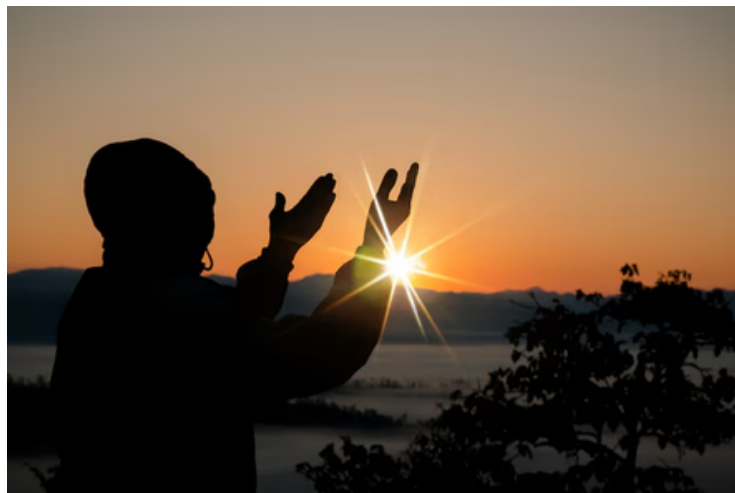
Three weeks ago, our family took our annual vacation up on Lake Superior in northern Minnesota, about 40 miles south of the Canadian Border. The place *in which* my soul finds rest.

When mom died four years ago, she wanted her ashes divided between the Iowa State University Cemetery (where my dad is interred), her family farm in Minnesota, and the North Shore of Lake Superior. We tried to fulfill her wish the year she died, but Covid showed up uninvited at our home and our plans didn't pan out.

When my sister died unexpectedly last September, we felt she'd want her ashes up on the lake, too. So, after her funeral, my brother and I took both containers of ashes north to the lake and set their earthly bodies free. It was November by then: the lake was freezing, the wind was unkind, we had our winter coats and hats on, and we didn't linger there.

I wasn't sure, last month, if it would be difficult being there—looking out on that magnificent body of water, knowing mom and Heather were “out there.” I braced myself, emotionally, for the scab to be ripped off once more. But what I found up there was peace, a profound feeling of comfort, and the sense that all was well. If possible, this little piece of God's Creation, that has been my refuge my entire life, became even more so—maybe because, in some spiritual way I'll never understand, my family is there with me, once again. I'm not sure why I'm writing about this, but it's on my heart. And, maybe, you are uncertain about going someplace (either literal or metaphorical) because there might be something there—sorrow, memories, mistakes, regrets—that you are afraid will haunt you. So, you stay away. What I found was that my fears were not real, but the peace I found was; and I would have missed out on the comfort if I hadn't gone. God is good at nudging us in directions we'd rather not go, because he knows it's the path that will help us find healing. Our invitation is to trust him. So, go. Take the trip, make the call, write the email, get another job, choose to retire, leave something bad, take the leap of faith. Trust that the One who redeems will use whatever difficult situation you're in to bring you his Peace. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Kara*



## July Outreach Mission

Again this year our **July Outreach Mission** is collecting monetary donations to fund First Christian Church annual dues for *Justice in Action*. In 2025 FCC became members of *Justice in Action*, an interfaith, grassroots coalition of faith communities in Lancaster County, Nebraska. We harness the power of organized people to address big community problems.

Currently, the four areas of focus for 2026 are:

- 1) Mental Health Navigation System
- 2) Pre-Trial Diversion System
- 3) Eviction Mediation
- 4) Food Insecurity

In order to be a contributing member of *Justice in Action*, churches are asked to pay dues, based on the amount of each church's operating income. These dues go towards paying the wages for two employees, as well as other mission-oriented expenses. We are asking members to prayerfully consider contributing to our **July Outreach Mission**, which will fund our *Justice in Action* membership dues for 2026. Dues will gradually increase over the next three years, until we reach the requested amount of 1% of our operating income.

Thank you for supporting this important work that will help make our community more healthy, just and Christ-like. If you are interested in becoming a part of our *Justice in Action* team, talk with Pastor Kara.



### Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Do you enjoy fellowship after Worship? It's a great time to grab a cup of coffee, glass of water and a little bite of something and catch up with fellow congregants. We need to have more hosts to setup, serve, and cleanup!

Please consider being a host,  
*The Hospitality Team*

## May Outreach Wrap Up



**It's a tie** – May Outreach collected 37 jars of Creamy Peanut Butter and 37 jars of Crunchy Peanut Butter

for the Food Bank of Lincoln. Pastor Kara announced that Crunchy had won with 37 jars of Crunchy and 36 jars of Creamy. That changed on the very last day of the collection with one jar of Creamy donated. There will be another runoff collection in the coming months. Thank you ALL for supporting our monthly Outreach Opportunities. Your stewardship keeps the beacon shining from 16th and K Streets, Lincoln, NE.



Elaine and First Christian Outreach,

Thank you so much for everything you are doing to support McPhee Elementary. We cannot do this without your support. We are all so grateful to have the BEST neighbors!

Theresa Haack

Principal McPhee Elementary



We need YOU to serve with First Christian at *The Gathering Place* on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Let Elaine Parman know by Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> if you can help.





## Those Serving in July

If for any reason you will be unable to fulfill your responsibility, **please find a substitute.** All of these positions need to be filled each morning.

### Worship Leader:

July 5-Wayne Duncan  
July 12 -Marcia Foster  
July 19 -Wayne Duncan  
July 26 -Marcia Foster

### Deacons:

Vince Ortega, Evan Foster

### Hallway Hospitality:

July 5 -Rich Calver  
July 12 -Elaine Parman  
July 19 -Geoff Putney  
July 26 -Vince Ortega

### Ushers/Greeters:

July 5 -Elaine Parman  
July 12 -Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan  
July 19 -Monte Dietrick  
July 26 -D'Arcy Blosser

### Acolytes:

July 5 -Kyson & Keaton Effle  
July 12 -Trev Greder  
July 19 -Gianna Greder  
July 26 -Edryk Christianson

### Offering Counting:

July 5 -Elaine Parman  
July 12 -Rich Calver  
July 19 -Gwen Belden  
July 26 -D'Arcy Blosser

**THANK YOU ALL** for volunteering to serve.



2<sup>nd</sup> Ruby Waller                      25<sup>th</sup> Jane Calver  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jessica Effle                      26<sup>th</sup> Bob Throop  
5<sup>th</sup> Diane Zabokrtsky                27<sup>th</sup> Geoff Putney  
6<sup>th</sup> Rhonda Ball                      29<sup>th</sup> Mark Miller  
13<sup>th</sup> Leo Jelinek  
23<sup>rd</sup> Nash Calver, Jase Calver

## Book Club

Next Meeting - Thursday, July 2nd  
6:30 pm

**Kristi Bowker's Home: 9431 N. 143rd St.**

Book for June:

*Frankenstein*

by Mary Shelley



Book for July:

*My Friends*

By Fredrik Backman



Everyone is welcome to join us!



- KAMP -  
**KALEO**

## Kamp Kaleo July Camps

July Camps still have openings:

- Robotics Camp - designed for campers entering 3rd through 6th grades - July 5-8
- Creative Arts Camp - for youth entering 7th through 12th grades - July 5-10
- Little Kampers 2 - for children entering Kindergarten through 2nd grades accompanied by a parent - July 10-12.
- Adventures in Community (AIC) Camp - designed for adults with developmental disabilities

For more information, go to [kampkaleo.com](http://kampkaleo.com).

# Prayers & Praises

## In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Joan Dietrich
- Monte Dietrick
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

*Prayers for healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.*

*Prayers for Phyllis Thurber, who has been struggling with pneumonia for a while and was recently hospitalized for it and just had a stroke early Sunday morning. She is in the ICU. Prayers for healing and for her family.*

*Prayers for healing for Kristie Christianson's mom, Lucy Reuter-Masek, after a mild stroke.*

*Prayers for Monte Dietrick, for continued healing.*

*Prayers for Cec Burkhart, for continued healing.*

*Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.*

*Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.*

*Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.*

*Prayers for Katelynn Long for continued healing and strength.*

## Friends:

- Ron Collamore, prayers for his health.

## Our Timothy

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

**In the Nebraska Region:** Minden First Christian Church - Leaders

## Our Global Ministries in: Laos

*"Gracious and loving God, at this time, we remember the students from the Lao Evangelical Church who are currently engaged in theological training. We pray that they may complete their studies with joy and dedication, and that they may become faithful servants in your vineyard in Laos. Amen"*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

# JULY

## Call to Confession

### One:

We spend so much time accusing ourselves, judging ourselves, punishing ourselves for what we have done, or not done. But God would draw us closer to the Heart of forgiveness, that we might be filled with healing and grace. Join me, as we confess where we have missed the mark, praying together:

## Prayer of Confession

### Many:

**What then are we to say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts? We know how often we have duped others with our deceit. We remember how often we promise one thing, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while we so easily listen to the promises of those who would pull us away from you. Forgive us, Merciful God. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our silly choices, your love will traverse anything, and everything, which separates us from you.**

## Good News of God's Grace

### One:

Hear the good news: the One who could accuse us, saves us from sin and death. The One who could condemn us, cradles us in grace. The One who could punish us, prays for us.

### Many:

**Now we know, there is nothing, not a thing, that can separate us from God. Thanks be to the One who forgives us. Amen.**

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# First Christian Church Calendar

## Wednesday, July 1st

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

## Thursday, July 2nd

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Sunday, July 5th

9 am Adult Sunday School  
9:15 am Sanctuary School Rehearsal  
10 am SCRIP Orders due  
10:30 am Worship  
4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

## Monday, July 6th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Tuesday, July 7th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Wednesday, July 8th

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
7 pm Recorder Consort

## Thursday, July 9th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> Homebound Communion

9 am Adult Sunday School  
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Worship Team Mtg - Library  
4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

## Monday, July 13th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Tuesday, July 14th

Noon - Staff Meeting  
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Wednesday, July 15th

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

## Thursday, July 16th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Sunday

9 am Sunday School  
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal  
10:30 am Worship  
4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym  
6 pm Board Meeting - Conference Rm

## Monday, July 20th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Tuesday, July 21st

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Wednesday, July 22nd

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

## Thursday, July 23rd

Noon - Messenger Deadline  
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Sunday, July 26th

9 am Adult Sunday School  
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Elder Meeting - Library  
4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym  
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Serve @ The Gathering Place

## Monday, July 27th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Tuesday, July 28th

Noon - Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm - 8 pm Spirited Readers - The Mill @  
Telegraph  
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Wednesday, July 29th

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

## Thursday, July 30th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**July SCRIP Orders are due on**  
**July 5, 2026**

Please contact the office or Donna Ruhl if you have questions or need to place a special order.