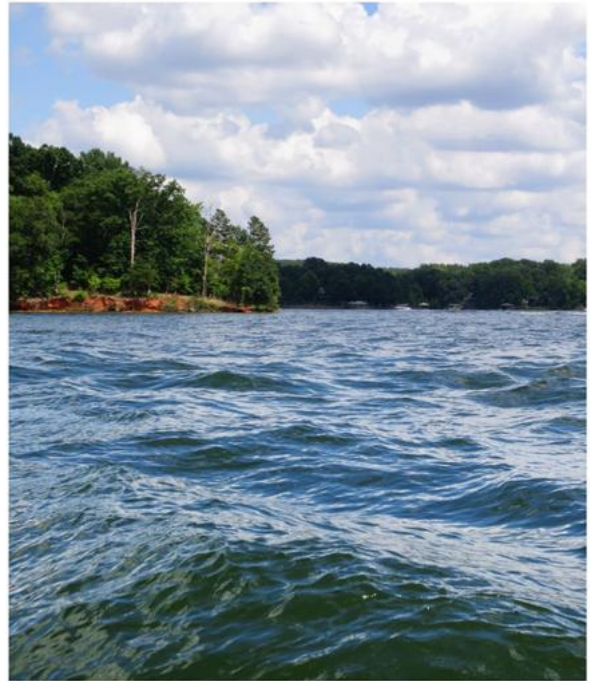


**Ripples
of
Mission**



**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

May 16/17, 2026
6:00 pm | 8:45 am
Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

Announcements and Welcome

8:45 GRADUATE MILESTONE BLESSING

P: We invite our high school graduates to come forward at this time.

P: We have encouraged you, witnessed you, and cheered you on as you have accomplished milestone after milestone. You have now scaled the mountain of high school, only to now see far greater heights to ascend. As you take these new steps, you will be in unfamiliar places and circumstances. It can feel freeing and terrifying.

(Distribution of gifts)

P: Your family of First Lutheran gives you this. A simple box as a reminder of the memories and love you carry from us. When you open it, you will find two things. The first is a set of prayer beads made specifically for you. May these beads be a memorial and guide for staying connected to God. You will also notice some cards in the box. These are prayers you can pray using the beads. While we cannot travel with you to your next destination, Christ, who has always been with you, will accompany you. Christ will be beside you no matter where you go.

Prayer for the Graduates:

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for the precious time that we have shared with these graduates. You have blessed their studies and experiences richly, and we pray for your continual presence in their lives. May your Holy Spirit continue to breathe life and inspiration to their lives. Amen.

P: Brothers and Sisters of First Lutheran, do you promise to support these graduates before us, to be open to them as a place of refuge and safety? Do you promise to keep them in your hearts and prayers?

C: We will.

P: Graduates, know that you are loved and cherished by us, and by the One who has walked with you for every step of your life. May you feel the Holy Spirit's fire warm you, May you feel Christ's love in those you meet, and may you feel the Father's protection of your life every day. Amen.

You may return to your seats with these gifts as we give you a round of applause!

Prelude

6:00pm *“Be Thou My Vision with Be Glorified”*

Dorann Bartels, pianist

8:45am *“Gift of Peace”*, **Cynthia Dobrinski**

Chancel Bells

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Have mercy on us, O God,

C: according to your loving kindness. In your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

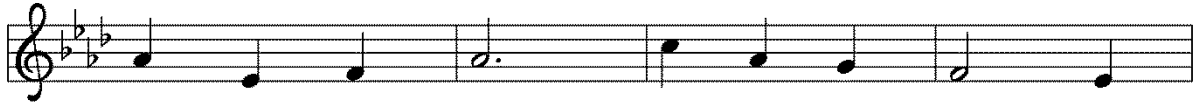
Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen.

P: God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

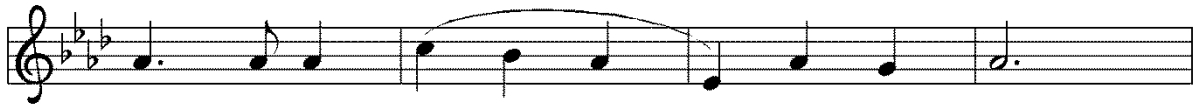
C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

“Earth and All Stars” ELW 731



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test - tubes!
5 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

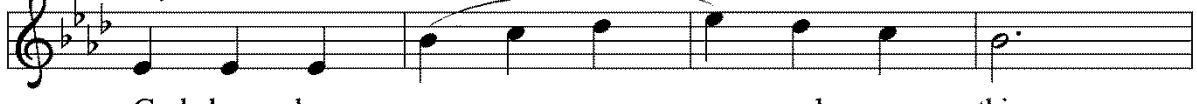


Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

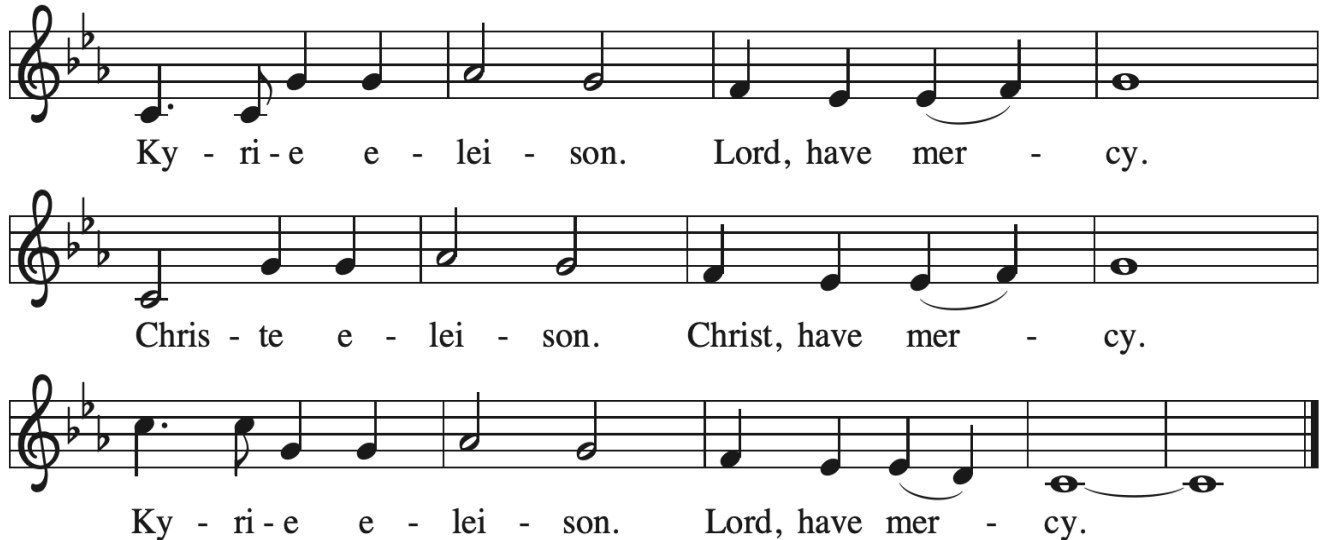
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926, Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987. Text and Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. All Rights Reserved.
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Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

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Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

**8:45 am ANTHEM “Give Me a Song”, Pepper Choplin
Chancel Choir**

Word

A reading from Acts the first chapter.

L: ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (*Acts 1:1-14*)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”
(John 17:1-11)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message and “Noisy” Offering

*(Children’s offering goes towards ELCA North Carolina
Disaster Relief Fund)*

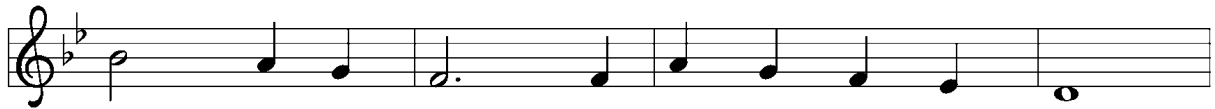
Sermon Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day "O Zion Haste" ELW 668



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

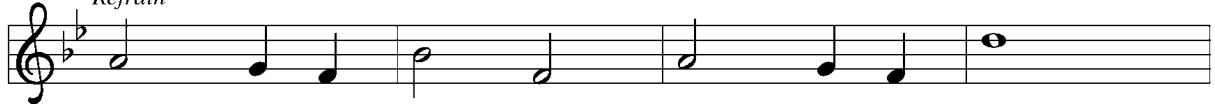


that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thompson, 1834-1923. Music: James Welch, 1837-1901
Text and Music Public Domain

Nicene Creed

L: With the whole church, let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence for reflection.

L: O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. We pray especially for:

Jim Anderson	Patty Ibsen	Jo Smallcomb
Bertha Boyer	Derek Johnson	Sheila Steele
Vicki Buschelman	Laura Morton	Joanne Suing
Pastor John Carlson	Don Niemann	Patty Suing
Gregory Carrico	Nancy Olson	Tony Tauer
Lindsey Clarey	Natalie Radcliffe	Martha Tiede
Ann Day	Mary Renshaw	Moriah & Barrett Vohland
Rich Ferris	Virginia Rewerts	Misty White
Corinne Fischer	Eileen Richter	Dean Wiese
Leonard Fowler	Kristen Richter	Miranda Wright
Randy Fritson	Daryl Rodgers	Paula Yoachim
Larry Giddings	Laura Morton	James Ziebarth
Keith Halliwell	Garth Scism	

L: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering *“I Come With Joy”*
Dorann Bartels, pianist

Communion Servers: Please come forward at this time.

Offertory Response

“As the Grains of Wheat” ELW 465 (refrain only)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

Text: Didache, 2nd Cent; Marty Haugen b. 1950. Music: Marty Haugen Text and music © 1990 TIA Publications, Inc.
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Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

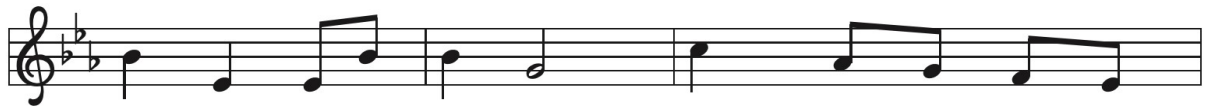
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation To Communion

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.

Prayers for Healing and Laying on of Hands

If you would like prayers of healing, join the pastor in the Narthex after you have received communion.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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Communion Music

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

Dorann Bartels, pianist

Please stand as you are able.

Table Grace

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray.

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,

to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,

and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Go My Children, with My Blessing” ELW 543



1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude “He Is Exalted”

Dorann Bartels, pianist

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Jim Anderson	Daryl Rodgers
Leonard Fowler	Garth Scism
Randy Fritson	Jo Smallcomb
Patty Ibsen	Martha Tiede
Don Niemann	Misty White
Natalie Radcliffe	Dean Wiese
Eileen Richter	Miranda Wright

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH

Bertha Boyer – Susan Slater’s aunt
Vicki Buschelman – Angie Wright’s aunt
Pastor John Carlson – Monie Karschner’s cousin
Gregory Carrico – Martha Tiede’s son
Lindsey Clarey – friend of Jen Puls
Ann Day – Greg & Linda Sue Jensen’s friend
Rich Ferris – Larry and Nancy Merz’s friend
Corinne Fischer – Bridget VonSeggern’s sister
Larry Giddings – Deb Beerman’s friend
Keith Halliwell – Greg & Linda Sue Jensen’s friend
Derek Johnson – Kylee Vreugdenhil’s brother
Laura Morton – Natalie Radcliffe’s sister
Nancy Olson – Greg & Linda Sue Jensen’s friend
Mary Renshaw – Linda Peterson’s sister
Virginia Rewerts – Janiene Rewerts’ sister-in-law
Kristen Richter – Tim & Eileen Richter’s daughter
Sheila Steele – friend of Linda Holsten
Joanne Suing – Angie Wright’s aunt
Patty Suing – Angie Wright’s mother
Tony Tauer – Linda Sue Jensen’s brother
Moriah & Barrett Vohland – friends of Kim and Nita Deyo
Paula Yoachim – Deb Beerman’s friend
James Ziebarth – Jane Ziebarth-Bovill’s brother

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8:45 am & 11am
- **Church Office Hours**—Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Brookestone Garden Services: First Sunday** monthly at 2:00 pm
- **For the hard of hearing FLC offers a loop system** for wearers with a “T”(t-coil) setting; the coverage works **best** on the main floor in the **center** aisles. T-coil is not available in the balcony.
- **S.A.F.E. Center donations** - for May are Laundry Products: Laundry Detergent, Fabric Softener Sheets, Laundry Baskets. Please put donations on the sharing shelf in the Narthex.
- **Volunteers of the Month** for May are F.R.O.G. Teachers, Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation Leaders, Music Teachers and helpers. *Thank you for sharing your time, faith, and gifts with our children – you are planting seeds that will last a lifetime.*
- **Communion registration**—Please register annually to maintain membership. Registration cards in pew racks & on Welcome Stations.
- **Visitors**—please complete a visitor card, found in the pews.
- **The Nursery** is available for anyone to use with services livestreamed inside. A toddler restroom is located inside.
- **Sun. May 17th** – 8:45am Service – Recognition of Graduates
- **Sun. May 24th** – Beginning of Summer Worship Hours:
 - **6pm Saturday 9:45am Sunday (One Service)**
 - **Sunday Coffee Hour: 9:00am – Sign up to make coffee in the Café.**
- **Sat. May 30** – FLY Lock-In.
- **June 7 – 12th** – Confirmation Camp.
- **June 14** – Budget Forum Meeting
- **June 28** – Annual Congregational Meeting – 11:00am
- **Save the DATE:** Vacation Bible School July 13-16 & 19th
- **Van Drivers Needed** for the “Summer Ride Ministry” *
- **Sign up to help with Summer Music.** *
- **Liners are needed for quilts for LWR.** Old blankets, flannel sheets, mattress pads. Please drop of in the church office.
***See FirstLutheranKearney.org for details**



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**First Lutheran Church ~ 3315 G Avenue ~ Kearney, NE 68847
308-237-5544 ~ office@firstlutheran Kearney.org**

**Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson, Preaching
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Presiding**

**Assisting Ministers:
6:00 pm – Amanda Lewis
8:45am – Amy Behrhorst
11:00 am – Dana Ernst**

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"Gift of Peace", Cynthia Dobrinski © 2003 Agape (a Division of Hope Pub. Co.

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"Be Thou My Vision with Be Glorified" Trad. Irish hymn, Billy Funk, arr Carol Tornquist

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"I Come With Joy" American Folk Hymn, arr John Carter

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"Create In Me A Clean Heart" Anonymous, arr Mark Hayes

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"He Is Exalted" Twila Paris, arr Mark Hayes Copyright 1990 Word Music, All rights reserved. International Copyright secured.

