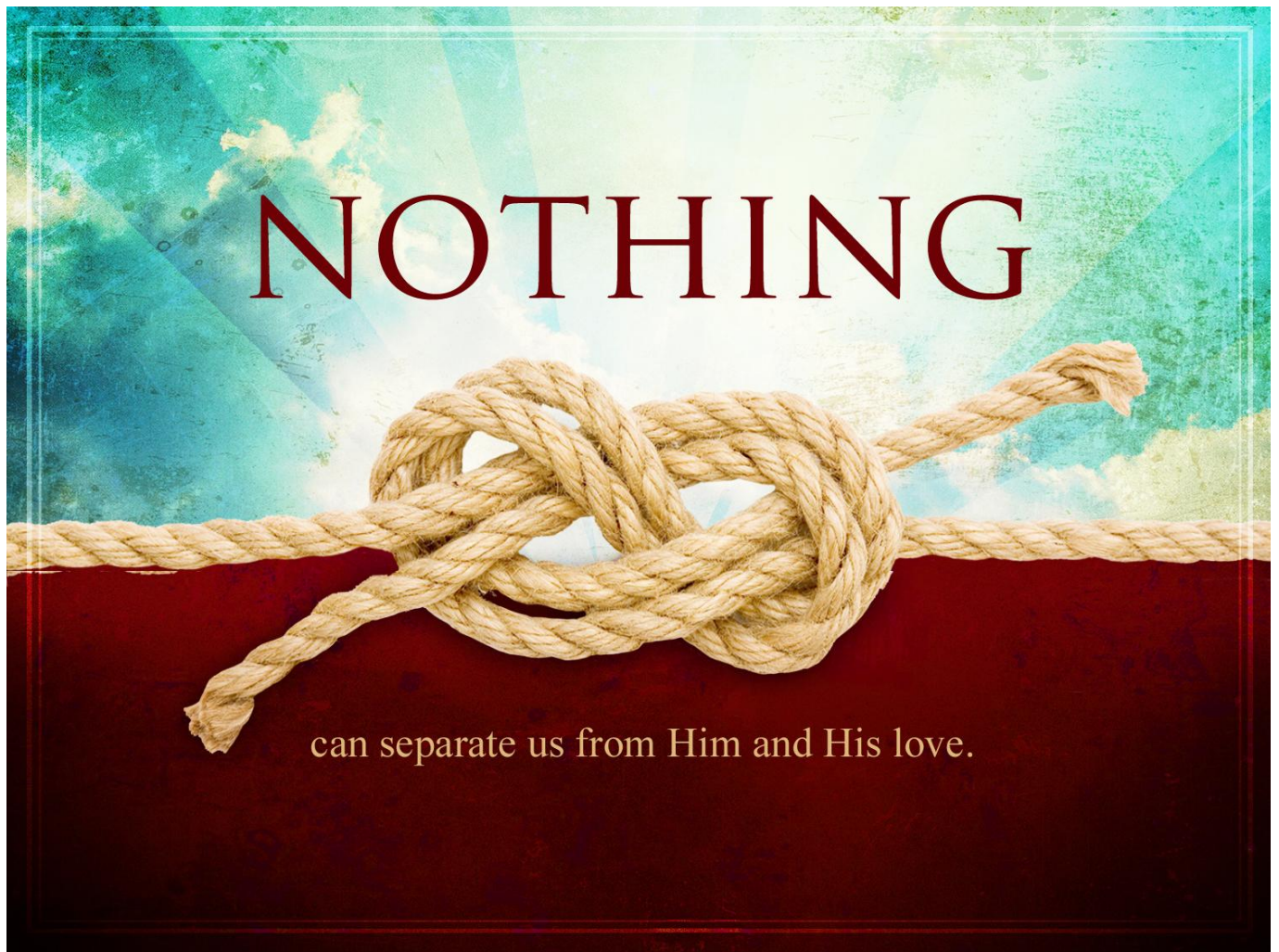




Time after Pentecost

July 25/26, 2026

6:00 pm | 9:45 am

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

"I Need Thee Every Hour" Karen Kotrc, pianist

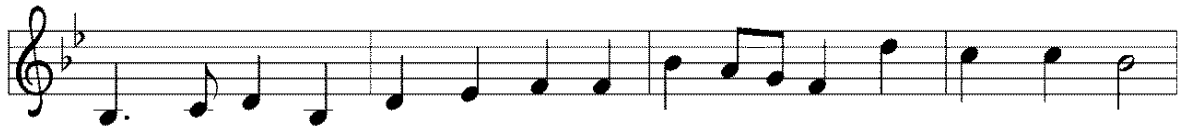
Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

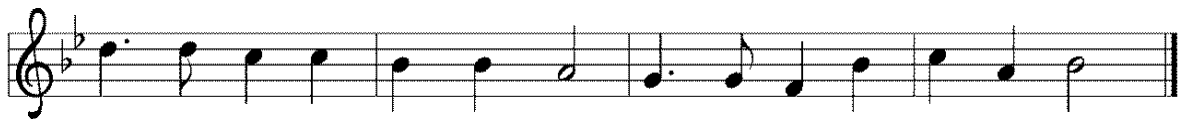
"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" ELW 533



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680.

Text and Music Public Domain

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.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

L: A reading from Romans the eighth chapter.

L: ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:26-39*)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,

so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message and “Noisy” Offering

(The Children’s offering goes to Lutheran World Relief to help children in Lebanon and Ecuador.)

Sermon

Pastor Rick Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” **ELW 774**



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929, Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924 Text and Music Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

L: With the whole church, let us profess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence for reflection.

L: God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty.

We pray especially for:

Jim Anderson	Derek Johnson	Garth Scism
Bertha Boyer	Larry Junker	Bryan Slater
Bo Burton	Lil Larson	Jo Smallcomb
Vicki Buschelman	Tom Meyer	Yvonne Steinocher
Pastor John Carlson	Natalie Radcliffe	Joanne Suing
Rich Ferris	Ruth Ellen Rebelein	Mariah & Barrett Vohland
Corinne Fisher	Mary Renshaw	Dean Wiese
Leonard Fowler	Eileen Richter	Paula Yoachim
Randy Fritson	Kristen Richter	James Ziebarth

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

9:45am: Communion Servers:

Please come forward at this time.

Offertory Response

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. 1922-1980. Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of OneLicense #A-705218

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy,
and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us
back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.**

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are
carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of
God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

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.

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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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.

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.

Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of OneLicense #A-705218

Communion Music

6:00 pm

"This Is My Father's World"

Karen Kotrc, pianist

9:45 am *"Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping"* ACS 1050



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep-ing; our on - ly
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far - off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir - it



sleep-ing while our brief lives are bound in death.
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor-rows swal-low and of - fers
The Spir - it sings though we are shak-en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and
shared our heart-felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

Text: Adam M.L. Tice, b. 1979. Music: North American Traditional
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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.

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

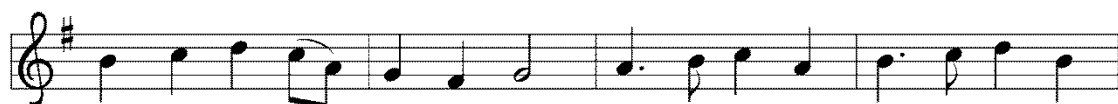
"God of Grace and God of Glory" ELW 705



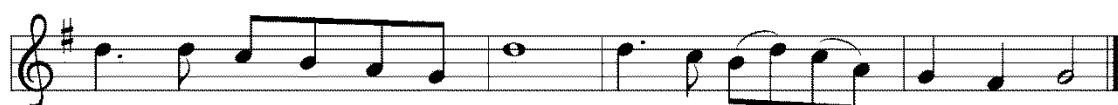
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969. Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932
Text and Music Public Domain

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *"This Is the Day"*

Karen Kotrc, pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:45 am
- **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 July are household items, kitchen items, cooking utensils, crockpots, and silverware. New items only please. Please put donations on the sharing shelf in the Narthex.
- **Volunteers of the Month** for July are Sarah Haack and Stephanie Todd. Thank you Sarah and Stephanie for service multiple terms and holding leadership positions on the Preschool Board!
- **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 and includes a “Toddler Restroom”. Services are livestreamed inside.
- **Summer Worship Schedule:**
 - Saturday 6:00pm | Sunday 9:45am
 - Sunday Coffee Hour: 9:00am – Please Sign up to help make coffee or clean up in the Café.
- **Tues. July 28** – 5-8pm | S.A.F.E. Center Dining Fundraising at Culvers.
- **Aug. 8 & 9** – Blessing of the Backpacks
- **Aug. 14** – Habitat for Humanity FLC Work Day
- **Aug. 19** – Wed. – Confirmation Orientation
- **Aug. 15** – LOSS Volleyball Scramble @ Big Apple | Register by Aug. 1
- **Aug. 26** – Wednesday Evening Youth events resume
- **Aug. 30** – 11am Worship in the Park / Dryden Park
- **Sept. 12 & 13** – Teacher Installation
- **Sept. 13** – Sunday School Returns
- **Sept. 13** – God’s Work, Our Hands
- **Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4** – New Members Classes

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Jim Anderson	Eileen Richter
Leonard Fowler	Garth Scism
Randy Fritson	Jo Smallcomb
Tom Meyer	Sue Springer
Natalie Radcliffe	Dean Wiese

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH

Bertha Boyer – Susan Slater's aunt

Bo Burton – Janna Burton's son

Vicki Buschelman – Angie Wright's aunt

John Carlson – Monie Karschner & Becky Bredenkamp's cousin

Rich Ferris – Larry and Nancy Merz's friend

Corinne Fischer – Bridget VonSeggern's sister

Derek Johnson – Kylee Vreugdenhil's brother

Larry Junker – Karen Emal's brother

Ruth Ellen Rebelein- friend of First Lutheran Congregation

Mary Renshaw – Linda Peterson's sister

Kristen Richter – Tim & Eileen Richter's daughter

Bryan Slater – Susan Slater's husband

Yvonne Steinocher – Deb Rohla's cousin

Joanne Suing – Angie Wright's aunt

Moriah & Barrett Vohland – Kim and Nita Deyo's friends

Louise Weides – friend of Tom and Pat Meyer

Paula Yoachim – Deb Beerman's friend

James Ziebarth – Jane Ziebarth-Bovill's brother



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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

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

**Assisting Ministers:
Saturday, 6:00 pm – Amy Behrhorst
Sunday, 9:45 am – Sara Davis**

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I Need Thee Every Hour Hawkes, Lowry Arr. by Marvin Golstein 1994 M.G. Productions

Change My Heart, O God, Eddie Espinosa Arr. by Mark Hayes 1982 Mercy Publishing

This Is My Father's World Traditional English Melody Arr. by Chris Rice 2001 Clumsy Fly Music

This Is the Day Les Garrett Arr. by Mark Hayes 1980 Scripture in Song

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" Text: st. 1. Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4 Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948 text st. 1 and music © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Co. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of CCLI #1093735

