



Image credit: nakedpastor.com

Time after Pentecost

July 4/5, 2026

6:00 pm | 9:45 am

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude "God Bless America"

Dorann Bartels, pianist

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" ELW 888

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

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.

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

L: A reading from Romans the seventh chapter.

L: ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in

my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (*Romans 7:15-25a*)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my

yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (*Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*)

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

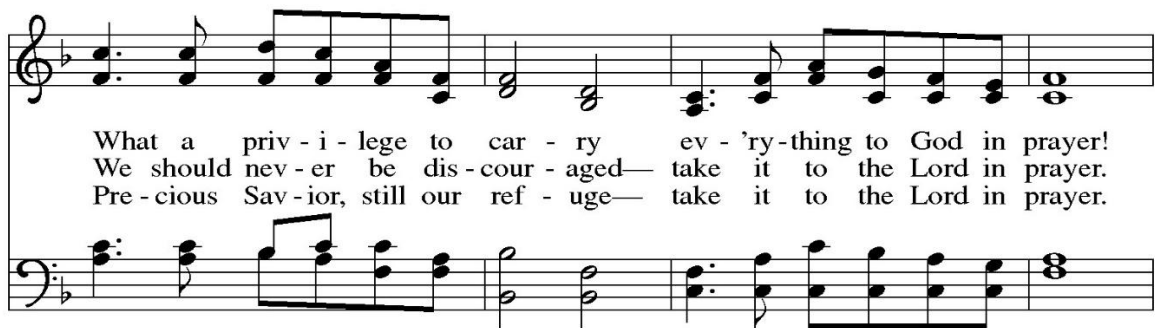
Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918 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: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence for reflection.

L: Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: All your works praise you, O God. From the Colorado River to the Delaware, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, these waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You are the nurturing God of exiles. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now. We pray especially for:

Jim Anderson	Patty Ibsen	Bryan Slater
Bertha Boyer	Derek Johnson	Jo Smallcomb
Bo Burton	Larry Junker	Sue Springer
Vicki Buschelman	Lil Larson	Yvonne Steinocher
Pastor John Carlson	Tom Meyer	Joanne Suing
Gregory Carrico	Laura Morton	Martha Tiede
Ann Day	Natalie Radcliffe	Mariah & Barrett Vohland
Rich Ferris	Mary Renshaw	Dean Wiese
Corinne Fisher	Eileen Richter	Paula Yoachim
Leonard Fowler	Kristen Richter	James Ziebarth
Randy Fritson	Garth Scism	

L: God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

L: We remember before you those who have died in every generation including those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared.

God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our 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

6pm *“Be Thou My Vision”*, arr. Donna J. Krieger

Dorann Bartels, pianist

9:45am Special Music *“Be Thou My Vision”* arr. Cindy Blevins

John Gosswein, Clarinet

Jonathan Reece, Trombone

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. Arthur 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.

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

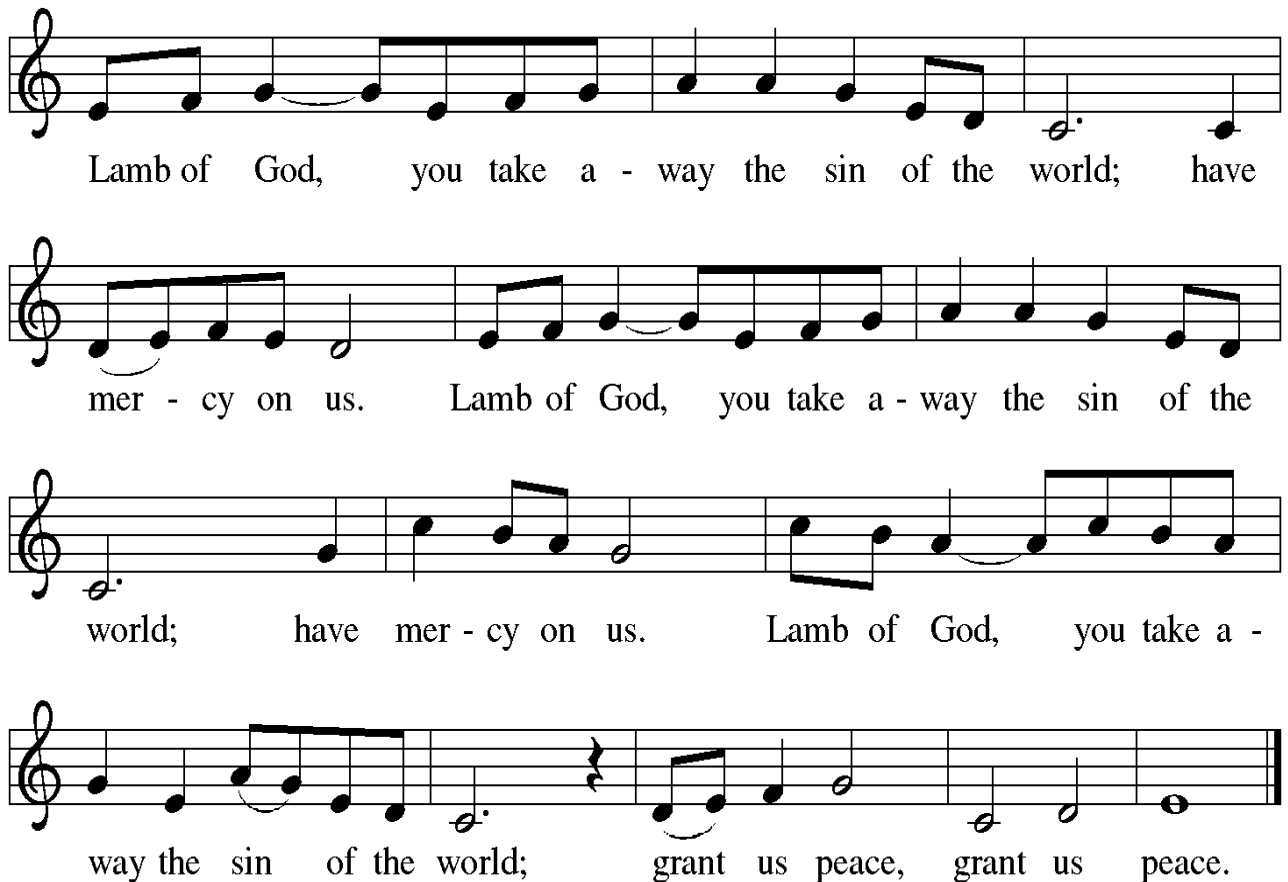
P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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.

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.

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

Communion Music

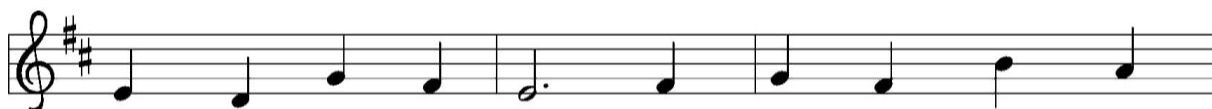
6:00pm – Organist Music – Dorann Bartels

9:45am

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”, ELW 620



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.
treas - ury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
me in vain, and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., Music: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799-1877. Text and Music Public Domain

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.

Sending of Communion

L: O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who share the gifts of this table with our siblings who are sick and homebound. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" ELW 890



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.



Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *“Song for the Nations”*

Dorann Bartels, pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:45 am
- **Church Office Hours**—Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Brookstone 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 June are Dish Cloths and Hand Towels. Please put donations on the sharing shelf in the Narthex.
- **Volunteer of the Month** for June is Stacy Bean. Stacy has served in many areas, most recently volunteering as musician for several services when we had gaps this spring.
- **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.
- **July 13-16 & 19** - Vacation Bible School. Register to attend or volunteer at: FirstLutheranKearney.org
- **Aug. 26** – Wednesday Evening Events resume
- **Aug. 30** – 11am Worship in the Park / Dryden Park
- **Sept. 13** – Sunday School Returns
- **Sept. 13** – God’s Work, Our Hands
- **Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4** – New Members Classes
- **Sign up to help with Summer Music. ***

***Visit FirstLutheranKearney.org for details**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Jim Anderson	Eileen Richter
Leonard Fowler	Garth Scism
Randy Fritson	Jo Smallcomb
Patty Ibsen	Sue Springer
Lil Larson	Martha Tiede
Tom Meyer	Dean Wiese
Natalie Radcliffe	

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
Gregory Carrico – Martha Tiede’s son
Ann Day – Greg & Linda Sue Jensen’s friend
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
Laura Morton – Natalie Radcliffe’s sister
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
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@firstlutheran Kearney.org**

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

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

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Postlude: Song for the Nations, arr. Mark Hayes. Copyright 1986,1990 Integrity's Hosanna! International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.

