



Image: *Le Christ et la Cananéenne* - Francisco Antolinez y Sarabia; Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Agen

Time after Pentecost

August 15/16, 2026

6:00 pm | 9:45 am

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

Announcements and Welcome

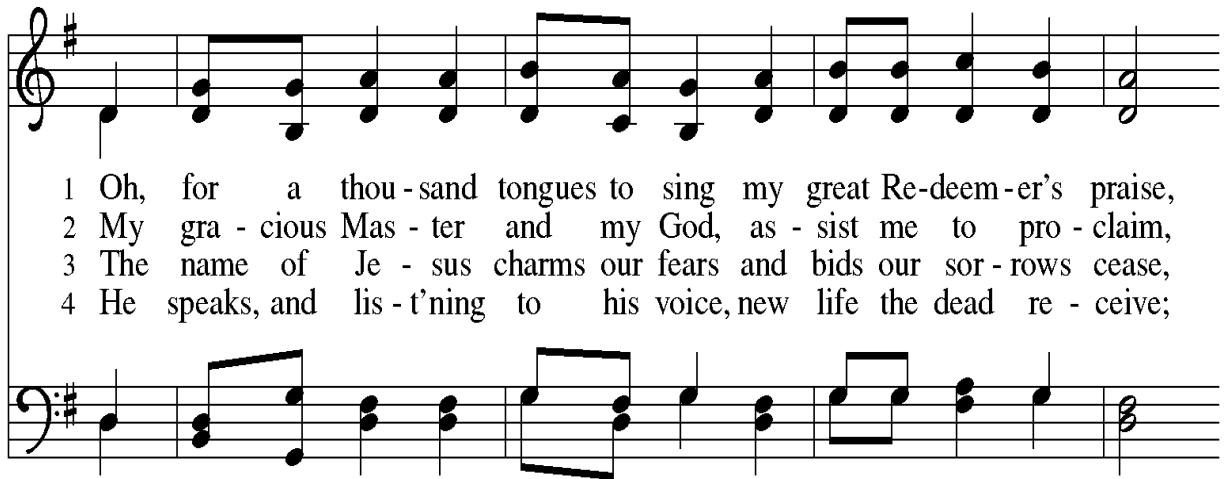
Prelude

"Here I Am to Worship", Stacy Bean, musician

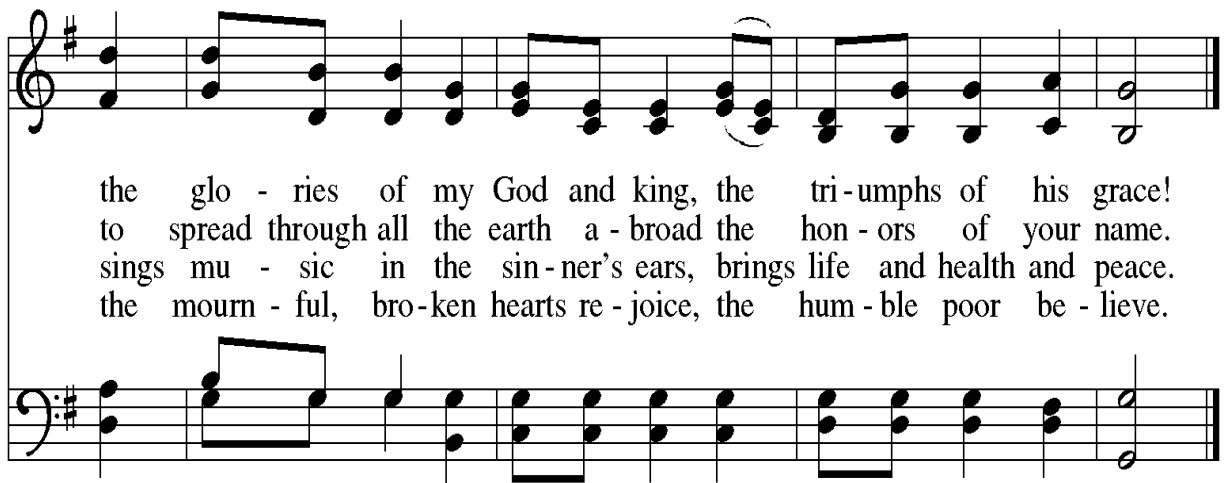
Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW 886



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
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

AM: Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

L: A reading from Romans the eleventh chapter.

L: [Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

(Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment. (*Matthew 15:10-28*)

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 Michelle Holley Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ELW 588



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Music: North American, 19th Cent. Text and Music Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

AM: 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

AM: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence for reflection.

AM: For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind.

We pray especially for:

Jim Anderson

Shelby Blankley

Bertha Boyer

Bo Burton

Vicki Buschelman

Pastor John Carlson

Rich Ferris

Corinne Fisher

Leonard Fowler

Randy Fritson

Derek Johnson

Lil Larson

Tom Meyer

Natalie Radcliffe

Mary Renshaw

Michelle Sawicki

Garth Scism

Chris Siefert

Bryan Slater

Yvonne Steinocher

Joanne Suing

Dean Wiese

Paula Yoachim

James Ziebarth

Prayers of comfort and peace for:

- Judy Samuelson's family and friends on her death.*
- Karen Emal on the death of her brother, Larry Junker*
- Doug & Deb Hinze and Derek & Sarah Schweitzer on the death of Doug's mother and Sarah's grandmother, Norma Hinze.*

AM: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

“Allegro”, Francois Devienne

Laura Behrhorst & Natalie Radcliffe, flutes

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

AM: 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.

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

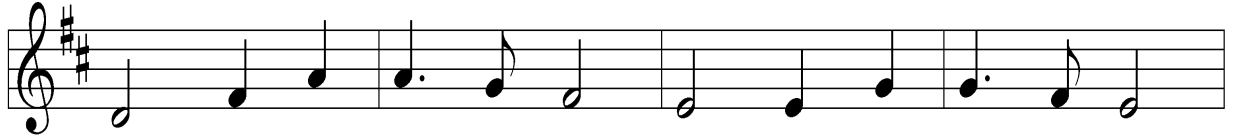
Communion Music

6:00 pm *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

Stacy Bean

9:45 am

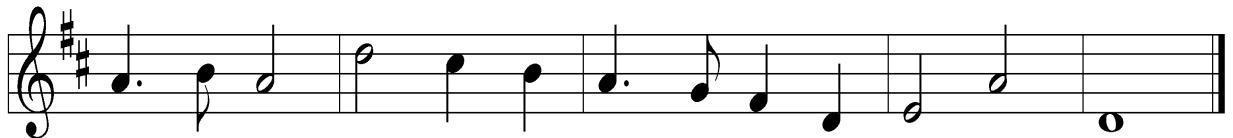
"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" **ELW 759**



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887. Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. 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.

Prayer after Communion

AM: 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.

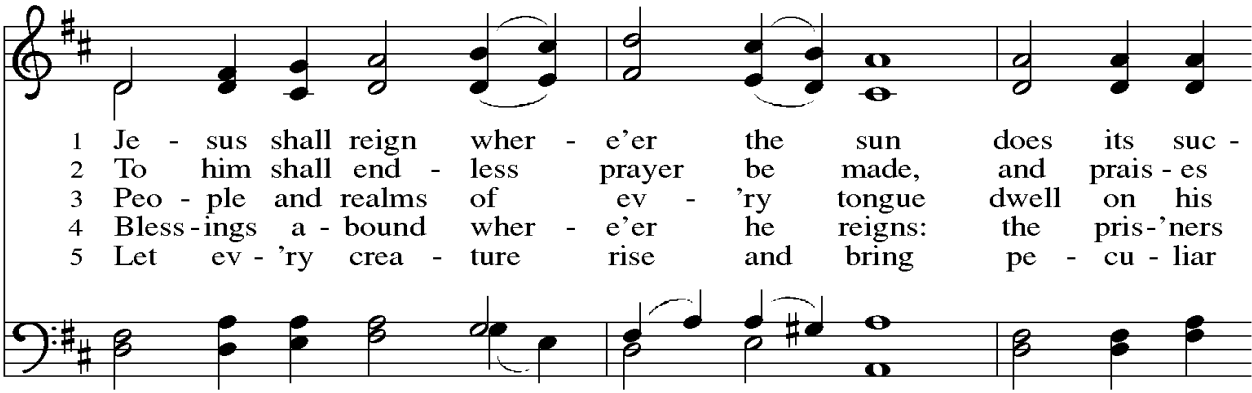
C: Amen.

Blessing

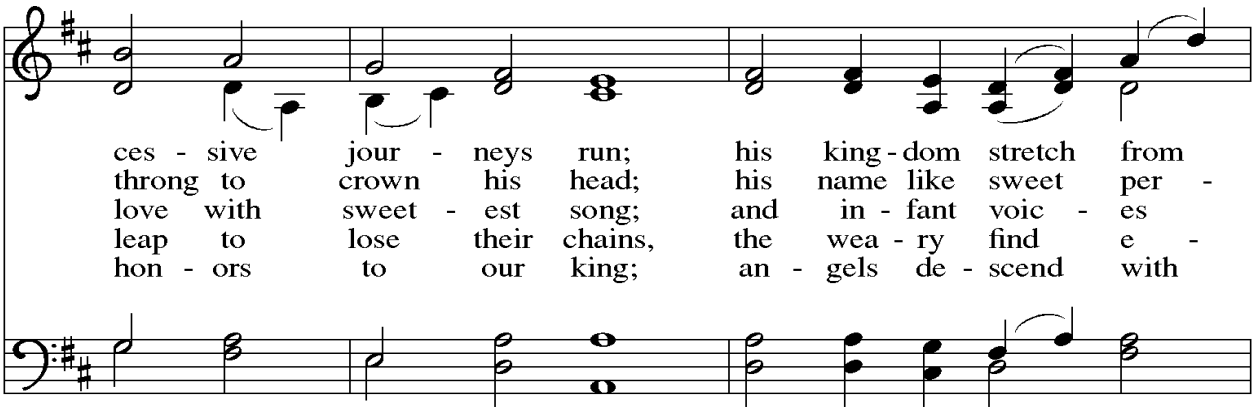
P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn “Jesus Shall Reign” ELW 434



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt, Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793 Text and Music Public Domain

Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude “Bless God”

Stacy Bean, musician

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 August are Non-Perishable Foods. See complete list on the First Lutheran website.
- **Volunteer of the Month** is Stefani Wegner. Stefani has served as VBS Coordinator for MANY years. Thank you, Stefani, for making an impact on our youth in their faith journey!
- **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 on the board in the café to help make coffee or clean up.
- **Aug. 19** – Wed. – Confirmation Orientation
- **Aug. 26** – Wednesday Evening Youth events & Feeding the Flock resume
- **Aug. 30** – 11am Worship in the Park & Picnic / Dryden Park
- **Sept. 6** – 8:45am and 11:00am Sunday Worship Services resume
- **Sept. 7** – Labor Day / Church Office Closed
- **Sept. 12 & 13** – Teacher Installation
- **Sept. 13** – Sunday School & FLY Returns
- **Sept. 13** – God’s Work, Our Hands
 - Adult Forum: 9:50am - Bishop Emeritus Maas
- **Sept. 19/20** – Installation of Women’s ELCA Officers
- **Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4** – New Members Classes

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Jim Anderson Leonard Fowler Randy Fritson Lil Larson Tom Meyer	Natalie Radcliffe Michelle Sawicki Garth Scism Dean Wiese
--	--

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH

Shelby Blankley- Justin & Adriane Madsen's friend

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

Mary Renshaw – Linda Peterson's sister

Chris Siefert – Janiene Rewerts' cousin

Bryan Slater – Susan Slater's husband

Yvonne Steinocher – Deb Rohla's cousin

Joanne Suing – Angie Wright's aunt

Paula Yoachim – Deb Beerman's friend

James Ziebarth – Jane Ziebarth-Bovill's brother

Prayers of comfort and peace for:

- *Judy Samuelson's family and friends on her death.*
- *Karen Emal on the death of her brother, Larry Junker*
- *Doug & Deb Hinze and Derek & Sarah Schweitzer on the death of Doug's mother and Sarah's grandmother, Norma Hinze.*



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

**Assisting Minister:
6:00 pm – Vicar Libby Florian
9:45 am – Vicar Libby Florian**

Musician – Stacy Bean

Copyright Information

Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003295.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Prelude: Here I Am to Worship. Words and Music by Tim Hughes. CCLI Song No. 3266032

© 2000 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. Used by permission of CCLI License No. 1093735

Offering: "Állegro", Francois Devienne © 1955 Rubank Inc., All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by Permission

Postlude: Bless God. Text and Music: Brandon Lake, Cody Carnes, Brooke Ligertwood. Arr. Grant Wall

© 2023 Brandon Lake Music (Admin by Essential Music Pub.) Capitol CMG Paragon, City and Vine Music Pub.

International, Writer's Roof Pub. (Admin by Capitol CMG Pub.)

All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of CCLI #1093735

