



July 6, 2025 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Independence Day Weekend

As We Gather: The celebration of Independence Day is not part of the liturgical Church Year calendar. Rather, it is a national celebration that presents an opportunity to give thanks to God for His blessings on America. Today, we give thanks not only for the freedom that is ours in Christ, but also the freedom that we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. And we pray that people all across our nation will put their trust in God and that God will continue to bless our nation and its citizens in the years ahead. God bless America!

Welcome

Opening Hymn: “America, the Beautiful”

- 1. O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.**
- 2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress
A thorough-fare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.**
- 3. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
‘Til all success be nobleness, And every gain divine.**
- 4. O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.**

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pledge to the Cross

All: I pledge allegiance to the cross and to the faith for which it stands, one Savior, eternal with mercy and grace for all.

Pledge of Allegiance

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Pledge to the Christian Flag

All: I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands, one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our merciful Father.

(Moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.)

People: Forgive us, O Lord, when we take for granted the freedoms which we are privileged to enjoy in our nation and which so many others have never known. Be merciful to us when we do not make the desire for a strong spiritual faith predominant in our lives as citizens of this nation. Pardon us when we fail to pray for those who lead us and when we neglect our duties as Christian citizens of this land. Forgive also, O Lord, all other sins which we commit against You each day in thought, word, and deed. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus who died for us that we might be free. Amen.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God promises forgiveness to all those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of God and by Christ's authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Pastor: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

People: Happy are those who dwell in the land.

Pastor: The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad.

People: He has been merciful to us and our land and blessed us abundantly.

Pastor: He has preserved us when men rose up against us to destroy us.

People: He has caused crops to grow and industry to prosper.

Pastor: Truly, our Lord is a great God, and greatly to be praised.

People: We wait for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

People: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us.

Hymn of Prayer: LSB 965 "God Bless Our Native Land"

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord of heaven and earth, You have bestowed on us more than we ask or desire. We thank You for the land in which we live and ask Your continued blessings on it and on us.

People: And we ask You to guide and direct those whom we have elected so that Your will shall be done in our midst and around the world;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 146 (*The psalmist reminds us to put our trust in the Lord and not in human leaders.*)

¹ Praise the LORD. ¹ Praise the LORD, my soul. ² I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. ³ Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. ⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. ⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. ⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever. ⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, ⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous ⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. ¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:11–17 (*Peter urges us to not misuse our freedom and to let our lives be a witness to the world around us.*)

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 20:20-26 (*Jesus reminds us to give the government its due.*)

²⁰ Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. ²¹ So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. ²² Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ²³ He saw through their duplicity and said to them, ²⁴ "Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. ²⁵ He said to them, "Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." ²⁶ They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Anthem: "The Lord Is My Light"

Sermon: Luke 20:20-26 "Our Responsibilities as Christian Citizens"

Nicene Creed:

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Rite for Early Communion: Jaycee Lile & Ty Lile

Reception of New Member: Matthew Springer

Prayer of the Church

Offerings

Communion Confession

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess: (*1 Corinthians 10:17; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32*)

All: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (*Augsburg Confession-Article X*)

Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutatory that we should at all times and all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame death and the grave by His glorious resurrection that we might be truly free now and for all eternity. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy Holy (*Words and music in hymnal page 195*)

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Words of Institution

The Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God (*Words and music in hymnal page 198*)

All: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymns: LSB 966 "Before you, Lord, We Bow"

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on. (Chorus)

(Chorus)

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!

2. I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps
They have build-ed Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on. (Chorus)

3. He hath sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat,
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
O be swift my soul to answer Him, be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. (Chorus)

4. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His being that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy let us live to make men free!
While God is marching on. (Chorus)

Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon (*Words and music in hymnal on page 199*)

ALL: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

People: And His mercy endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks, Lord our God, for You have again refreshed us through this sacrament. Grant us to live each day in this blessed land as faithful citizens of Your kingdom of grace and to treasure the freedom that is ours in Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: (Sing) Amen, Amen, Amen.

Hymn: "God Bless America"

God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above;
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.

Church
News

ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of July 6, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO
Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597
pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: James Sharp and Dane Arbuckle Families
Zion, Prairie City, MO.

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Family of Mary Haggerty – (friend of Kathy Holle on her passing);

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)



Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Shari Barnard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Carol Bresnick – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Roger Harris – (Wendy's Dad – health and healing from flu)
Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Deborah Knotts – (our cleaning lady – health and healing)

Wendy Koenig – (friend of Heidi Costello – health and healing)
Alissa Loveland – (Rachel Sanford's daughter)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
Thomas Williams – (Ruth Stoddard's friend)



Long Term

Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health & healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing from surgery)
Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (Health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health & healing cancer)
Ron Hicks – (friend of Glenda Enlow – health and healing)
Steve Hilton – (friend of Harold Lampe –health & healing, cancer)
Marty Jones – (Bobby Jones' mother – health)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's Sister-In-Law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Kooper Tutten – (Jeepers Meyer's Great-grandson healing)
Barbara Jean Wilson – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)



THIS WEEK

Sunday	July 6th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	July 7th	Braille - 9:00 am and 1:00 pm LWML - 1:30 pm at Freistatt
Wednesday	July 9th	Pastor in Office
Thursday	July 10th	Pastor in Office
Sunday	July 13th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	July 14th	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study – 1:30 pm at Freistatt



Birthdays: Callida Sharp & Vonnie Suelter-June 9; Cathy Munden-June 15

Anniversaries: James & Angela Sharp-June 15



July

Greeters

06: Emily Ernest & Edith Chambers
13: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer
20: Charlie & Edith Chambers

Ushers

06: Charlie Chambers
13: Rob Springer
20: Bill Michel



Pastor Daniel Heitshusen's ordination and installation at Grace will be July 26 at 3:00 pm. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend! More details to follow – stay tuned!

LWML will meet July 7, 2025, at 1:30 in Trinity Chapel. The program will be presented by Connie Prater, titled "What Are You Putting On?" based on Colossians 3:12. The business meeting will follow the program. Please join us.



The Presbyterian Church has asked for our help at "Come And Dine" on July 31st and August 14th. A sign-up sheet will be available for those willing to help.

Special Voters' Meeting will be held on July 13th after church services. We will discuss Pastor Heitshusen's housing allowance required for tax purposes.



Freistatt Picnic: Trinity Lutheran Freistatt Church
 July 11, 2025 6-9 pm (Friday)
 218 N. Main St. - Food, Live Music, Games, Inflatables



Trinity Lutheran On-Line-Auction
www.32auctions.com/2025TrinityPicnic
 Bidding Opens July 5 at 6:00 pm
 Bidding Closes July 9 at 9:00 pm

Stones Prairie Picnic – July 18, 2025 Friday (In case of inclement weather July 19, 6:00 pm)
 Hamburgers, chips, hot dogs, bratwurst sandwiches, ice cream and homemade desserts.
 Games, baked goods, handcrafted items, bingo and Quilt raffle.
 Questions: call church office 417-442-3836

Dear Members of Grace,
 Our sincere thanks for all of the love and appreciation shown to us last Sunday. The cards, personal notes and gifts from individuals, and the generous gift from the congregation are all greatly appreciated. You are a caring, loving congregation. We have been blessed to be at Grace for the past eleven years and we look forward to continuing to be members with you in the years ahead. May God bless each of you.

Pastor Ken and Darlene