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### First Lutheran Church Dedication

First Lutheran Church

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# *First Lutheran Church*

*(Lutheran Church in America)*

**3315 Avenue G**

**Kearney, Nebraska**

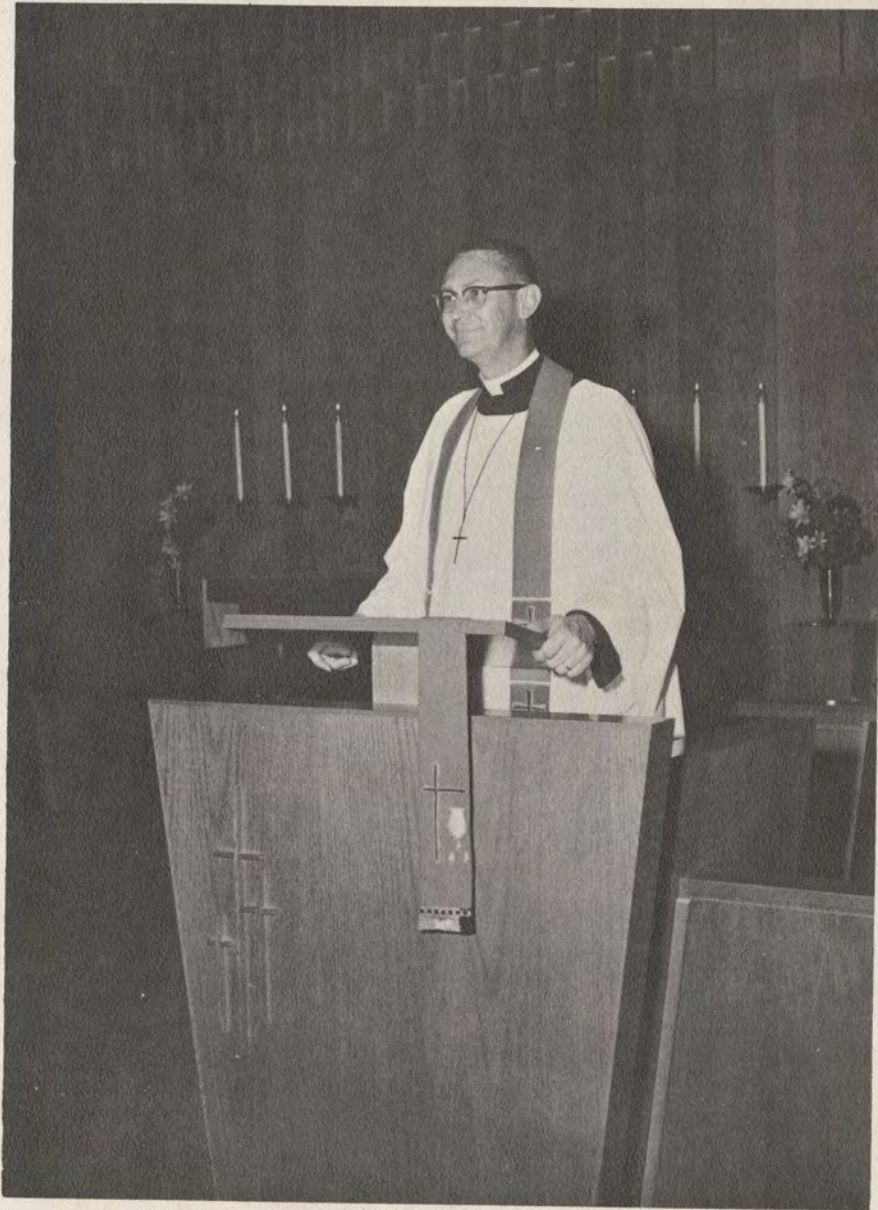


## **DEDICATION**

**JULY 23, 1967**

**3:00 P.M.**





We have been looking forward to this day for a long time. Much time, work, and planning has gone into this new House of Worship over the past years by many dedicated members.

Now that it is complete and to be dedicated to the Glory of God this day, we do not want it to become a monument of what we have accomplished. We want this to truly be a House of God, where the Word of God is preached and the sacraments administered, where people can come to find comfort for their souls, assurance of life everlasting, and Christian fellowship.

We are happy that so many of you could be with us today to join in our celebration and to share our joy. The Pastors and members of First Lutheran Church welcome you to this observance.

Pastor Ronald A. Ebb



# -- Dedication Service --

July 23, 1967—3:00 p.m.

Prelude

Organist — Fran Ehly

"Air from Overture in D" J. Sebastian Bach  
"Chanson Triste" Arranged from Maurice Ravel  
"A Monastery Evensong" F. Leslie Carver  
"Prelude in d minor" J. Sebastian Bach  
"Meditation Serieuse" Homer N. Bartlett  
"Andante from Symphony No. 1" Johannes Brahms  
"Offertory from the Variations, Op. 19, No. 6" Peter Tschaikowsky

Processional Hymn: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" ..... No. 242  
(Congregation stands)

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the Head and Cornerstone;  
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
Binding all the Church in one:  
Holy Sion's help forever,  
And here confidence alone.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
What they ask of thee to gain;  
What they gain from thee forever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in thy glory  
Evermore with thee to reign.

To the temple, where we call thee,  
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;  
With thy wonted lovingkindness  
Hear thy servants as they pray,  
And thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls always.

Laud and honor to the Father,  
Laud and honor to the Son  
Laud and honor to the Spirit  
Ever Three and ever One,  
One in might and One in glory,  
While unending ages run. Amen

Liturgist - Rev. Ronald A. Ebb

Minister: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Response: Amen

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Minister: Let us pray

Psalm 122 (read responsively)

I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord  
Our feet shall stand within thy gates: O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem is builded as a city: that is compact together;  
to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

For these are set thrones of judgment: the thrones of the house of David.  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: They shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls: and prosperity within thy palaces.  
For my brethren and companions, sakes: I will now say, Peace be within thee.  
Because of the house of the Lord our God: I will seek thy good.

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.

Presentation of Altar Service Books and Sacramental Vessels

Minister: I will go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy. O send out thy light  
and thy truth, let them lead me:

Response: Let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles, that I may go unto  
the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy, and praise thee, O God, my  
God.

(Congregation be seated)



Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire  
And lighten with celestial fire;  
Thou the anointing Spirit art  
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart

Thy blessed unction from above  
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.  
Enable with perpetual light  
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
With the abundance of thy grace.  
Keep far out foes; give peace at home;  
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
And thee, of both, to be but one;  
That through the ages all along  
Thy praise may be our endless song.

Dedicatory Address - Dr. Reuben T. Swanson, President, Nebraska Synod, LCA

Anthem: "Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee" Bach  
The Senior Choir - Director, Milford Gulleen

(Congregation Arise)

Officiating Minister: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts! The heavens and earth are full of Thy glory. Fill also this house and the hearts of all faithful Christians with Thy glory and honor, for Thy holy Name's sake.

Congregation: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Officiating Minister: Let us now hear the promises and admonitions of the Word of God.

Scripture Passages: Genesis 28:10-17, Matthew 16:13-18 and I Corinthians 3:9-17  
Pastor Roger L. Sasse

Apostles' Creed: Congregation

Rite of Dedication—Dr. Reuben T. Swanson

And now be this temple consecrated to the Lord, to His service and worship.

Blessed be these walls that shall resound with the praise of the Lord.

Blessed be the place from which the Gospel of Christ shall be preached.

Blessed be the place, where the Lord through the Sacrament of Baptism shall receive new members into His kingdom.

Blessed be the altar, where the incense of prayer shall be offered to the Lord and where the body and blood of Jesus Christ, once offered for us, shall be distributed to His congregation.

Blessed be this house, that the turmoil and pollution of the world may be far removed, and that the congregation of the saints may here find shelter beneath the shadow of God's wings.

Congregation: Amen.

Minister: Peace be to this house. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Lord's Prayer: All

(Congregation be seated)



Ladies Trio "Bless This House"

Delores Banks, Doris Ibsen, Mae Johnston

Presentation of the Keys to the church - Representative of Helleberg and Helleberg, Architects.

Greetings:

Announcements

Offering - First Lutheran Building Fund

Offertory Anthem: "A Song of Praise" Will James  
The Senior Choir

Offertory Response (Congregation Arise)

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

Closing Prayer and Benediction: Pastor Roger L. Sasse

Three-Fold Amen: Congregation.

Recessional Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." ..... No. 443

Now Thank we all our God, With Heart and Hands and Voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, the Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.

Congregation be seated and remain seated until ushered out.

Postlude

"Aria" George Frederick Handel

"Glory Be to God" J. Sebastian Bach

"Alleluia" Wolfgang Mozart



After the service, you are all invited to partake of refreshments in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by the women of our Church.



## **A Brief History of First Lutheran Church and It's Recent Building Program**

On June 11, 1884 a group of about 35 Swedes met and organized what was then called the Swedish Lutheran Church. In the fall of that year, the corner stone was laid for the first church which was located at 19th Street and Avenue D. This served as the church home until 1924 when a new church was constructed on the south side of 25th Street between Avenues A and B.

This church, now known as First Evan. Lutheran Church was completed and dedicated on September 14, 1924 and served this congregation until 1966. On June 19, 1966 the final worship service was held in this house of worship. This property was sold in March of 1966 for a service station.

It was at the annual congregational meeting in January, 1956 that talk was first begun about the need for larger facilities to serve our people and community. Discussion was based around an addition at the present site (25th St. and Ave. B) or relocation and building a complete new facility. At a special meeting held April 6, 1956 it was voted to buy land in north east Kearney, our present site for a future new church.

In 1958 a new parsonage was constructed across from the church site at a total cost, including land, of \$19,875. At this time the former parsonage was converted to a Parish House and served the congregation in this manner for eight years.

In 1961 an additional piece of land on the south end of our new church site was purchased, given us an entire block for our future church needs. This gave us a total of approximately 4 acres.

On November 20, 1964 a special congregational dinner meeting was held at the college dining hall to approve the general plans for the new church. Plans were presented by Helleberg and Helleberg, the architect selected for the new church.

Bids were accepted on the new church in August of 1965 and Approved by the congregation in September of that year. The following men were appointed to be the Building Committee. Kenneth Carlson, Chairman, Robert Schroeder, Vice-chairman, Harold Forsberg, Otto Olsen and Charles Stiefvater.

Ground breaking was held on September 12th, with about 175 members and friends present. Construction got under way in October of 1965. The corner stone was laid on July 3, 1966.

Since we had sold our old property and had to vacate in June of 1966, arrangements were made with the Kearney Public School to use Emerson School gym for services for a period of six months June to December 1966.

The first services were held in the new church on Christmas eve, 1966 even though the church was far from finished, but a beautiful service was held with candle lights only since we had no lights and no furnishings in the church.

The church as now completed contains a nave seating 350 worshippers plus 35 in the choir loft. Directly behind the nave is the fellowship hall which will seat over 200 at tables and also serves as an overflow for the church so a total of over 600 could be accommodated at a service.

The church has a large lounge which serves also as a part of the narthex. There is a secretary's office and work room, Pastors study and choir room. The church has three storage rooms. The kitchen off the fellowship hall is very adequate with all new furnishings and equipment.

To the east of the church is a large outdoor patio for outdoor social events in nice weather. The education wing to the south contains a Church School Office, Youth Room and 16 class rooms. The church with the exception of the Education wing is fully air conditioned.



There is also a formal garden area and patio on the west entrance to the church. A free standing open bell tower is also at the front entrance. The bell in the tower is the one from the old church.

The organ in the church is the organ from the old church, a Reuter organ. A new rank of pipes have been added along with chimes. This organ is now 18 years old.

The church is constructed so that no steps are found in the church where people move about. A parking lot to accommodate 75 cars is located to the east of the church and cut-in parking will be added for about 40-50 cars when the street to the east of the church is paved this summer.

Architect for the Church was Helleberg and Helleberg of Kearney. General contractor, was the Britton Construction Co. of Lexington; Mechanical contractor, Anderson Bros. of Kearney and Electrical contractor, Kelly Electric also of Kearney.

The total cost of the program including land, paving, parking lot and side walks, landscaping, general, mechanical and electrical contracts, all carpeting and furniture, kitchen furnishings and architect fees, speaking system and drapes plus moving and adding to pipe organ will be approximately \$355,000. The debt is approximately \$140,000.

Present membership of First Lutheran Church includes 639 confirmed members and 319 children for a total of 958 souls.



We wish to thank the many persons and groups, who under God's gracious guidance have contributed in so many ways to the completion of our building program. It is impossible to list all the names as so many have made fine contributions materially as well as gifts of time and talents.

A large number of gifts and memorials have been received for various items of furnishings in the church and we plan to list all these in a "Book of Remembrance" that will be placed in the narthex in the near future. We hope you will have an opportunity to look through this soon.

As we join in this Service of Dedication we join in thanking God for His Mercy and loving-kindness and look forward to the opportunity of serving Him in this community and throughout the Church.