



*First Lutheran Church- Putting Christ First  
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873*

*Sunday, November 28, 2021  
First Sunday in Advent*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

First Sunday in Advent Sunday, November 28, 2021

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshipping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you.

## **THE SERVICE BEGINS**

**P** We begin this service IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:

**C** Dear heavenly Father, you comforted your people with the promise that you would send us a savior;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** Come Lord Jesus, the Son of God! Come in power and glory and victory! Come quickly, and save your people;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** Come upon us, O Spirit of power and might. Breathe on us your life-giving breath, that we may watch and wait for Christ's return. Amen

**SONG:** "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" v1 only

**LBW 34**

## **WE CONFESS**

**P** With the words of Isaiah and the Psalms, we confess our sins and our grief, and we hear the comfort of the Lord.

**C** All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field: the grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. *Isaiah 40*

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. *Psalms 137*

## **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

**P** The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever! Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God! Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her punishment is over, that her guilt is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. Behold, the Lord is coming to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. *Isaiah 40*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

**P** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 25:1-10 (Read responsively by whole verse)

P. 226

#### SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup>as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**P** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup>{Jesus said,} “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this

generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON: “MY WORD WILL NOT PASS AWAY”**

**SONG:** “Now We Offer” vv. 1 & 2

**WOV 761**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** - Apostles' Creed

LBW p.106

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.106

Loving God, you promised your people of old that you would send a Savior to rescue us from our sin. Abide with us as we wait and watch in this Advent season. Help us to slow down and be present to your life-giving Word in our midst, that we may hear and respond in faithfulness and praise. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Holy God, you have brought us to a new church year once again. Grant us your grace to see this as a new beginning, one where you offer us forgiveness and restoration. May your mercy and grace transform our lives and renew our minds. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Lord of all, help us to remain faithful as the signs of the second coming of Christ become ever prominent. May we notice them and prepare our hearts for our Savior's return, daily living by faith and without fear. When trials come, help us to trust in your never failing promises to your people that you will never leave us orphaned or alone. Lord in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Healing Lord, surround those who are ill, grieving, or in despair with your healing grace and love. Reveal to them your tenderness and compassion through the lives of those who care for them. Grant them new life and renewed health. [*We pray especially for ...*]. Lord in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

p.113

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**OFFERING**

**CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

(The Song of Mary, when she visited her cousin Elizabeth after the angel Gabriel had appeared to her - traditionally called "The Magnificat")

**P** And Mary said,

**C** "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**P** for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

**C** Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**P** He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

**C** He has shown strength with his arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**P** He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

**C** He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

**P** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**C** according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham, and to his descendants forever."

**P** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**C** as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. AMEN

**CLOSING SONG:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**LBW 30**

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **C** Thanks be to God!



**PLEASE STAY TO DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE!**

Church Office: (815) 522-3886  
Pastor: Phil Gronbach (815) 762-4666(c)  
Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)  
Pianist: Jill Vodden  
Ushers: Louie Mielke (Head usher), Jean & Roger Bauer  
Attendance Last Week: Saturday, 11/20:17 Sunday, 11/21: 52

Website: [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org)  
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Lay Reader: Jo Boehmer

Offering Counters: Jean Bauer & Lisa Coyle

## *Thank You Connie*

Connie Worden is filling in for Pastor Phil this weekend. He is spending time with his daughter and her family.

### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

What a wonderful week! We had a Pastor visit with us November 16-18<sup>th</sup>. At our congregational meeting we voted to extend an official CALL to him. **HE HAS ACCEPTED OUR CALL!** He will be sharing with his Council and Congregation soon so we can not publish his name. Pray for a smooth transition.

### SOCKS BOX

The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission or other shelters. Please bring the socks by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and place them in the "SOCKS BOX" in the Narthex.





## **CRAFT NIGHTS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

This Friday, December 3rd at 6pm. We will be making tic-tac-toe games for next years OCC shoeboxes. All are welcome to come. We are looking for colorful buttons, the size of a nickle to a quarter size for this project.

A yarn doll is the next project, so please save your colorful yarn and gold cord to help us make them. Save your "used" Christmas Cards as we will use them to send a greeting with our future shoeboxes.

## **Celebration of *Life***

There will be a celebration of life open house in memory of Bill Koehnke who passed away April 19, 2020. The open house will be at WalCamp, 32653 Five points Rd, in Kingston, from 1:00-4:00pm on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS**

Laura Block 12/1      Sue Sester 12/2

### **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

Larry & Judy McMurray 12/1/1981 (Their 40<sup>th</sup>)

Jim & Debi Hetland 12/3/1977

Russ & Chris Mothkovich 12/6/1969

John & Lorene Roser 12/8/1973

Today 11/28: Please join us for coffee and fellowship.

Monday 11/29: Clothes Closet will be open, 12 – 1:30pm.

Tuesday 11/30: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30am; Distribution, 12-2 pm.

Thursday 12/2: Food Truck Delivery, 7:30am.

Confirmation Class, 5:30pm.

Friday 12/3: Craft Night for Operation Christmas Child, 6pm.

Saturday 12/4: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 11/28: Communion Service, with Sunday School to follow, 9a.

## **Prayers of the Church**

- Praise God, the visiting Pastor has accepted our call. Pray for a smooth transition for him and his current church.
- Dale Steinhorst, Gary & Peggy's son had an emergency surgery to remove his appendix on Thanksgiving Day! He is home.
- Roger Miller, son of Eldon & Helen Miller is seriously ill.
- Pray for those with Covid: Isabelle Gronbach, Pastor Phil's daughter-in-law; Maria, Peggy Veach's daughter and Andy Ritzert, Jo Boehmer's son.
- Carolyn Suhr, Mary Loomis and Norma Benson are now home.
- Nancy Bakanas is having some relief from back pain.
- Chuck Huey's sister, Harriet has kidney failure.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Amy Blobaum and Abby (Pahnke) Bohn.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Betty Paulsen, Ina Koehler, Nancy Bakanas and George Vodden.
- All NALC churches that are searching for a Pastor.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.