



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

*Sunday, December 5, 2021
The 2nd Sunday in Advent*

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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping 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

The 1st & 2nd Advent candle will be lit as we sing the 1st & 2nd stanza (verse) of "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel."

SONG: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" v1 & 2

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

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:1-12 (Read responsively by whole verse)

P.243

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-18

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all

were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

SERMON: "JOHN SHOUTS, REPENT"

SONG: "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

LBW 36

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

p.106

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

p.106

God for whom we wait, we come to you with open hearts as we watch for the return of Christ. Let us not become complacent, but help us to keep our eyes open for signs of his imminent return. Until then, let us entrust our lives to your gentle care and guidance. Lord in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

God of power and authority over the creation, grant that we would be humble in our words and actions as we seek to prepare the way for your kingdom coming into our midst. Watch over all who share the Good News: evangelists, teachers, preachers, and all the baptized in Christ. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, you began a good work in us long ago and have promised that you will one day bring that good work to completion. Show us your will and teach us to walk in the ways of Christ all our days. May our work be pleasing in your sight and centered in your love. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We sing your praises, O Lord of life, and we rely on your goodness to see us through the trials and hurdles of the day. Grant your grace and mercy to all who suffer. Let your light

shine in their midst and cast out all darkness and despair. [We remember especially...] Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

p.113

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

BENEDICTION:

CLOSING SONG: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

LBW 29

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Pastor: Phil Gronbach (815) 762-4666(c)

Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)

Ushers: Keith Krabbe (Head Usher), Loraine Krabbe, Tadd Krabbe, and Matt Johnson

Offering Counters: Keith Krabbe & Jo Boehmer

Attendance Last Week: Saturday, 11/27:19

Sunday, 11/28: 59

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

THANK YOU, BEN!

Thank you, Seminarian Ben Blobaum, for providing pulpit supply this weekend.

PASTOR PHIL

Pastor Phil has CoVid. He is at home, feeling tired and as if he has a sinus infection. He can call on his friends if he needs anything. He was not with his son & family for Thanksgiving since they had CoVid. Pastor hasn't been at our church since Nov. 21. We haven't been exposed.

SOCKS BOX

The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission, Carpenters Place or other shelters. Please bring the socks by next Sunday, December 12th and place them in the Narthex.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Elda Bruning 12/12 Carl Nelson 12/12

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Russ & Chris Mothkovich 12/6/1969
John & Lorene Roser 12/8/1973

PARSONAGE DONATIONS

The parsonage needs some updating, if you are available to help physically, contact Justin Newberry (815)262-0005. If you would like to donate financially, you may place your donation in the offering plate or take it to the office. Please write "Parsonage" in the memo line of your check.

Today 12/5: Please join us after service for coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 12/7: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30am; Distribution, 12-2 pm.

Thursday 12/9: NO Worship & Music Team Mtg or Confirmation Class. Church Council, 7pm.

Saturday 12/11: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 12/12: Worship Service, with Children's Christmas Program. **(Please have the children in the Sunday School area at 8:30am.)**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- Praise God, the visiting Pastor has accepted our call. Pray for a smooth transition for him and his current church.
- Carolyn Suhr, Norma Benson, Mary Loomis, and Dale Steinhorst are now home.
- Nancy Bakanas is having some relief from back pain.
- Roger Miller, son of Eldon & Helen Miller is seriously ill.
- Pray for those with Covid: Pastor Phil Gronbach, Isabelle Gronbach, Pastor Phil's daughter-in-law; Maria, Peggy Veach's daughter and Andy Ritzert, Jo Boehmer's son.
- Chuck Huey's sister, Harriet has kidney failure.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Amy Blobaum, Abby (Pahnke) Bohn and Annelise Daab, Mark Boehmer's girlfriend.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams especially Charmaine Massey, with a broken foot and Louie Mielke with a broken wrist.
- 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.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.