

First Lutheran Church
Kirkland IL

The God of New Beginnings

LIVING IN
THE END

A Preaching Series

www.kirklandflc.org

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

*Saturday, May 14, 2022
With readings for the 5th Sunday of Easter*

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(with scripture readings for the 5th Sunday of Easter)

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register, pass it down the pew for others to register and then place it in the offering plate. After worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

C O Mighty God, you raised your Son from the grave on the third day, defeating the power of death forever!

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, we praise you for your glorious Resurrection victory, and, like the disciple Thomas, we confess you as our Lord and God!

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C O Spirit of power and might, guide us by your Word, that we may know the Lord, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings.

All: AMEN!

OPENING SONG: "If You but Trust in God to Guide You" **LBW 453**

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our sins, and hear the forgiveness of God.

C Like the apostle Peter, O Lord, our faith has sometimes wavered. There are days when we confess by our words and our lives that "You are the Christ, the son of the living God!" There are days when we are ready to walk on water with you. But there have also been days when we have denied you by our words and our lives. Forgive us, Lord! Restore us to fellowship with you and one another!

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P When Jesus Christ arose triumphant from the grave, he did not come back to take revenge on those who had persecuted him, nor on those who had disappointed him. He came to restore them. To the disciples, huddled together in a locked room, He came and said, "Peace be with you." To the people of Jerusalem,

he sent his apostles with a message of mercy and forgiveness. To Peter, who had denied Him three times, He gave the chance to confess Him three times. And He restored Peter to his call as a servant and apostle in His kingdom, saying to him, "Feed my lambs." These same words of restoration are for you! All your sins are forgiven. Come, be an apostle in Christ's kingdom! His peace be with you!

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

¹The apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

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

PSALM 150 (Read responsively by whole verse)

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SECOND READING:

Revelation 21:1-8

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son." ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for the murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

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

GOSPEL

John 16:12-22

¹²{Jesus said to his disciples,} "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare

to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁶A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

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

SERMON: “THE GOD OF NEW BEGINNINGS”

SONG: “Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

LBW 331

STATEMENT OF FAITH: NICENE CREED

LBW p.64

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Holy God, through your son, Jesus, you have made us clean. No longer do we have to worry about what is clean and unclean in the world because his love for us has redeemed us from sin and death and put an end to distinctions of ritual cleanliness. For this gracious gift we give you thanks. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all that exists. Bring joy to families who are welcoming babies into their lives, that they might cherish every moment together. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, assuring them of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Beautiful Savior, we give you thanks for the beauty of your creation: for budding trees and blooming flowers, for a renewal life on this planet. May we be good stewards of all the resources we have been given, such as water, land, and food. May our care for the world you created be a sign of our devotion to you. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of life, you are the source of all healing and rest. Grant your healing mercy to be with all those who struggle with pain or suffering, bring hope to the hopeless, and provide for the needs of your people each day. [We pray especially for ...] Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts! **C** We lift them up to the Lord!
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.71

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

- P** When Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper before his crucifixion, He promised His disciples that one day they would again feast together in the kingdom of heaven.
C Dear Lord, keep us steadfast in faith until that day!
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" WOV 721

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

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Pastor: Tom Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)

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

Pianist: Nancy Plote

Hosts: Richard & Peggy Wince

Attendance Last Saturday 5/7: 15

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

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secretary@kirklandflc.org

Offering Counters: Keith Krabbe & Jo Boehmer

Attendance last Sunday, 5/8: 54

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Lenny Peterson 5/16

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

No Anniversaries this week. If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let me know. Thank you, Dianna



FELLOWSHIP TREATS SIGN- UP

There is a sign- up sheet on the kitchen door for those who would like to offer to bring or make a treat for fellowship time after Sunday church service. You may sign-up once or multiple times. This would also give Louie a break. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

If you are available to help with anything listed, let Jo Boehmer or Dianna Wittwer know. Volunteers are needed and GREATLY APPRECIATED!

2022 THE WALL THAT HEALS TOUR SCHEDULE

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced *The Wall That Heals* national tour schedule for 2022. *The Wall That Heals* exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The 27th season of *The Wall That Heals* will begin on March 24, 2022, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and visit 29 communities during the year. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The wall will be at the Boone County Fairgrounds May 12th – 15th.

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Wall-That-HealsBelvidere-IL-2022-113917053390704/>

There is more information on the bulletin board as well.

Sunday 5/15: Join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Newsletter items Due!

Monday 5/16: Food Truck Delivery, 9:30am.

Tuesday 5/17: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday, 5/18: Newsletter folding, 9am.

Thursday 5/19: No Confirmation, 5:30pm.

Saturday 5/21: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 5/22: Worship Service, 9am. Sunday School to follow.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need, including those mentioned here:

- Chuck Schindler has had surgery, he is well and should be home.
- Wanda Smith, Elda Bruning's sister, has a spot on her lung and just recently had a stroke.
- Jason Gorski, nephew of Dan & Janelle Pahnke and Chris, Gary Steinhorst's cousin are fighting cancer.
- Charmaine Massey for physical therapy to help strengthen her lungs.
- Madeline Bramm who had a brain bleed in December.
- Justin Mielke to have clear answers about his health.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Abby (Pahnke) Bohn, Jamie Wittwer, Laura Block and Rachel Ash.
- 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, George Vodden and many others.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- Situations in Ukraine and Myanmar and all effected by this.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.