

A hand holding a pen is positioned over a Christmas card. The card is white with red text and a small illustration of a bird. The background is a wooden table with a pinecone and a small dish. The card is partially covered by a teal diagonal banner.

First Lutheran
Church
Kirkland, IL

Have a very
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
and a happy
NEW YEAR

Advent 1
**A Pending
Invitation**

*Advent Series:
A Geography of
Salvation*

*Saturday, November 26, 2022
With Readings for First Sunday of Advent*

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First

Saturday, November 26, 2022

With Readings for First Sunday of Advent

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 and pass it down the pew. Then 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 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: "Joy to the World"

LBW 39

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

Gracious God, you are the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end. May your Spirit kindle in us a spirit of readiness, that we might at all times and in all places be prepared for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 (Read responsively by half verse)

P. 279

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶{Jesus said,} "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

SERMON: “A PENDING INVITATION”

SONG: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

LBW 34

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

LBW p.106

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LBW p.106

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, we pray that you would put to death in us our immoral conduct and selfish ways. Strengthen us by your grace, that by the integrity of our lives and the constancy of our faith, we give glory to your holy name.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Lord God, Ancient of Days, you have revealed your unfolding promise over the centuries, always pointing forward toward the advent of your Son. Even as we wait, O Lord, keep us ever watchful and constantly prepared, that you may find us diligently attending to the tasks which you have given us.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of righteousness, kindle among the world's leaders a hunger for justice and peace. Guide them to govern wisely. Let the bounty of your love break the chains of hatred and prejudice. Protect from danger our military personnel who are far from home. May they work for your peace in the world

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Bring your healing presence to those who are dying, those who long for forgiveness, and the sick, suffering, and grieving. [We pray especially for . . .]. Bring comfort and hope to all your people who are suffering this day. Grant to each one of us, all you see that we need.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW 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

CLOSING SONG: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying "

LBW 31

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Lessons for Next Week:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Church Office: (815) 522-3886
Pastor: Tom Thorstad (716)990-6244(c)
Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)
Pianist: Nancy Plote
Attendance last Saturday, 11/19:14

Website: www.kirklandflc.org
pastor@kirklandflc.org
secretary@kirklandflc.org
Host: Vernon & Jane Johnson
Last Sunday, 11/20: 40

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Jack Sunderlage 11/26
Laura Block 12/1

Joshua Sunderlage 11/26
Sue Sester 12/2

ANNIVERSAY BLESSINGS!!

Jim & Carolyn Suhr 11/26/71
Larry & Judy McMurray 12/1/81
Jim & Debi Hetland 12/3/77 (Their 45th)



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's Sunday School Program will be on Sunday, December 11th. Please have the children arrive at 8:45am so there will be enough time to put costumes on and maybe calm some nerves.



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 18th and place them in the "SOCKS BOX" in the Narthex.

VISIT WITH PASTOR

If you would like to visit with the Pastor, please call him at (716) 990-6244 or the church office (815) 522-3886 to set a time to visit with him at the church or at your home.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Poinsettias for our Christmas Memorial Garden are ready to order. Only 20 plants are available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, so **please order early**. They are \$10 each. There are forms and envelopes in the narthex. The filled forms may be placed into the offering plate or on Dianna's desk.

Area Events:

There are a lot of things going on in the area, take a look at the bulletin board in the narthex.

Office Bulletin Board:

Evangelism & Outreach – How to begin. Pastor has posted steps of how to share your faith.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 11/27: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, snack, and Adult Bible study.

Monday 11/28: Clothes Closet Open 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 11/29: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 11/30: Bible Study on-line, 7pm.

Thursday 12/1: Food Truck Delivery, 7:30am;

Lydia Circle Bible Study, 1pm; Confirmation, 5:30pm.

Saturday 12/3: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 12/4: Communion Service; Sunday School to follow, 9am.



PARISH CONCERNS

- Jerry Sheehan as he continues to heal from a motorcycle accident.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: 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, especially Carolyn Suhr, Ryleigh Joos, Jason Gorski and Chris Droes, (Gary Steinhorst's cousin).
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Creston, IL & St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Oregon, IL as they begin the call process for a Pastor.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.