



First Lutheran
Church
Kirkland, IL

Advent 4
**Somewhere
between Heaven
and Hell**

*Advent Series:
A Geography of
Salvation*

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

*Saturday, December 17, 2022
With Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent*

First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First

December 17, 2022 – with readings for

The Fourth 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: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LBW 25

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria!”

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

PSALM 24 *(Read responsively by whole verse)*

p. 225-226

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together

she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

SERMON: "SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL"

SONG: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

LBW 35

NICENE CREED

LBW p. 105

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Gracious God, despite our sin and our unworthiness, you welcome us into your presence with love and forgiveness. Just as we have been forgiven and welcomed, grant that this congregation would extend your hospitality to others in the name of Christ. Give us the grace to share your love, welcoming with your Word all those who seek your grace and mercy.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Lord God, our beginning and end, even as we prepare to celebrate your Son's birth with joyful anticipation, help us also to prepare for his return with hopeful joy. Keep us faithful to the mission to which you have called us as we wait, for it is in waiting well that we shall experience the joyous hope of Jesus' imminent return.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God. You bring forth bread from the earth to feed your people of every time and place. Help us to see what you have given, not as our own to hoard, but as that which you desire us to share and distribute to the world. Use us to meet the needs of those around us, both near and far.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you call us to care for all in need. We thank you for entrusting to us the resources and skill to serve others around us. Hear our prayers for the unemployed, or underemployed, orphans, widows, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit [we pray especially for ...]. Use us to be ministers of your grace for the benefit of our neighbors.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p. 97

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

P People of God, stay awake and alert, and fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called, to which you have today borne witness in the presence of many witnesses. The Lord is coming soon!

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

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

Attendance last Saturday, 12/10:15

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Host: Chuck Huey & Darla McManus

Last Sunday, 12/11: 66

Lessons for Next Week

Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-14

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Jane Johnson 12/16

Joseph Thorstad 12/22

Rick Schmidt 12/27

Malcolm Anderberg 12/29

Debbie Rehn 12/18

Charles Peterson 12/26

Natalie Norris 12/27/2019

Nathan Watson 12/31

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!

Ben & Amy Blobaum 12/29/2020

David & Laura Block 12/31/2020

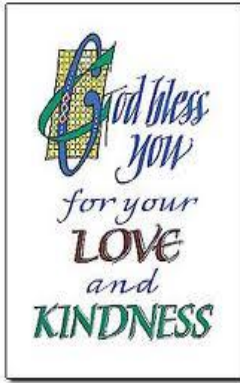
SOCKS BOX

The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission or other shelters. The socks are due to the church by tomorrow, Sunday, December 18th. Please place them in the "SOCKS BOX" in the Narthex.



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. Orders are due tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 18th.



THANK YOU

Thank you for the get well wishes and prayers! I so appreciate them.

Love, Carolyn Suhr

Thank you for all the Birthday cards. It was quite a surprise!

Chuck Huey

MIKE & MARTI VALASEK UPDATES:

Highlights of 2022

- Marti was her sister's Matron of Honor in her April wedding back in IL.
- Mike sanded and stained our back deck.
- We visited IL for a week in August.
- Been in TN over a year now.
- Had family here for Thanksgiving this year.
(Picture is posted on the bulletin board.)
- Marti's book, *Taming tina, the Stray Kitty*, which she wrote, and illustrated has been published.

Rejoicing in all God has done in our lives.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP

Rev. Brad Hales

Rev. Brad Hales will present "It's all about relationships" via Zoom. This is presented as a non-credit class through the NALC. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

PLEDGE AND TIME & TALENT FORM

If you forgot to bring in your pledge envelope, please do so soon. This helps our budget committee plan for the next year.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are expected soon! Once they arrive, they will be available in the narthex.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 12/18: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and snack.

Monday 12/19: Food Truck Delivery, 9:30am.

Clothes Closet Open, 12-1:30pm. (One week early for those last-minute Christmas gifts.)

Tuesday 12/20: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Saturday 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service, 7pm.

Sunday 12/25: Christmas Day Communion Service, 9am.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

Reports due to Dianna on Thursday, Jan. 5th.

Booklets will be ready Jan. 14th.



PARISH CONCERNS

- Linda Paulson, wife of David Paulson, passed away on December 5th. There will be a visitation at Quiram/Olson Funeral Home, Kirkland, on Sunday, December 18 from 3:00-5:00pm.

May the promise of God's resurrection bring peace to the family of Linda Paulson.

- Kelly Arnold is doing well after knee replacement surgery.
- 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, Jerry Sheehan, Ryleigh Joos, Jason Gorski, Loraine Steinhorst (Gary Steinhorst's mother) 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.