



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

*Saturday, December 31, 2022
With Readings for the 1st Sunday after Christmas*

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(with scripture readings for the 1th Sunday after Christmas)

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.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

C O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mount Sinai, in fire and thunder and cloud, as you gave your Ten Commandments;

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus, our Lord and God, you made your divine power manifest by changing water into wine, healing the sick, and teaching the people with power and authority;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C O Divine Spirit, when Jesus was baptized, you came upon him in the form of a dove. Come upon us now, in the speaking of your Word. AMEN!

OPENING SONG: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our sin and griefs, and hear the comfort of the Lord.

C If you revealed only your power and your law to us, O Lord, we would be undone. Like the Israelites who trembled with fear at Mt. Sinai, and like the disciple Peter, who upon seeing your power over nature, cried out, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”, we too would be reduced to fear and trembling, guilt and hopelessness. We confess that we have not and cannot live up to your righteous and good laws, and that we cannot stand before your almighty power.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P Jesus reveals himself to us most completely, not through laws, commandments, and displays of awesome power, but through lowliness and humility. He came to John the Baptist to be baptized, though he didn't need to at all. By doing so, he showed that he is not ashamed to be associated with sinners. Indeed, he loves sinners, and wants to come into their lives and be their

friend. Jesus loves us sinners. In His name, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C And also with you!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Majesty, may your Holy Spirit provoke us to follow your Son in all obedience and humility, growing in spiritual wisdom and maturity, so that through us, all creation will come to know the praise of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

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

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³When {the wise men} had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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

SERMON: "TWO KINGS AND A LITTLE BOY"

SONG: "The First Noel"

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STATEMENT OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

LBW p.84

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Holy Father, you have provided the means by which the message of your Son has come to us. We thank you for the Gospel, and we pray that you would keep our ears open to hear it anew each day. Give us your Holy Spirit, so that we would be kept in the one, true faith, together with all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you live beyond the realm of time, untouched by its passage. From everlasting to everlasting you are God. For that great grace we thank you, Lord, that you have come to dwell among us. We pray that Christ's own presence may accompany us into the year ahead, that each day may be lived for you.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Ever-present God, you sent your prophets and apostles out into a faithless world that rejects your Word. Be with all who suffer persecution, especially those seeking to bear faithful witness to Christ in places where they face persecution because of their loyalty to Jesus as Lord.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Holy Comforter, be the strength and assurance of those who grieve the death of loved ones. Surround them with your love and give them that peace which passes all human understanding. Grant that they, and all of us who believe in Christ Jesus, might look forward to that day when we join all the saints who have gone before us around your throne of glory and worship you forever.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

P Isaiah said of old, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news."

C People of God, today this prophecy has been fulfilled in your hearing. **C** Amen!

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "Angels We have Heard on High"

LBW 71

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, Christmas Eve12/24:85

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Host: Vernon & Jane Johnson

Last Sunday, Christmas Day12/25 30

THANK YOU PASTOR PHIL!

Thank you, Pastor Phil, for providing pulpit supply for this weekend while Pastor Tom is on vacation.

Lessons for Next Week

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Chloe Schindler 1/1

Jean Bauer 1/3

Loraine Krabbe 1/5

Sara Haag 1/7

Jennifer Block 1/8

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

David & Laura Bock 12/31/2020

Keith & Renee Krabbe 1/1/2017

John & Jo Boehmer 1/5/1992

CHURCH FUN FACTS

When pastors complained
the alter area was too cold,
Marvin Bernhardt ran a heat
duct to the left of the altar
to warm them up.

(In celebrating our 150th Anniversary, Connie Worden has found some fun facts that will be included in the bulletins each week and the newsletters each month. Hope you find them interesting. Dianna)

IT'S A GIRL!

Hailey Mae Faivre born December 6, 2022
Born to Sarah (Sester) and Karl Faivre
7 lbs 7 oz and 20 inches long;
Joins big sister Emma, 2 years old
Grandparents are Vince & Jerilyn Faivre
and Mike & Sue Sester



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. The class will start on January 5, 2023.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes look very different this year. They are in the narthex. Please pick up yours today.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Dianna, or call me at the office (815)522-3886 or my cell (815)378-6654.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.

Reports due to Dianna on Thursday, Jan. 5th.
Booklets will be ready Jan. 14, 2023.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 1/1: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee.

Tuesday 1/3: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Thursday 1/5: Food Truck Delivery, 8am; Lydia Circle, 1pm.

Church Council. 7pm (One week early).

Saturday 1/7: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 1/8: Worship Service, 9am with Sunday School to follow;

Adult Forum will resume. Newsletter Items are due.

PARISH CONCERNS

- Wanda Smith, sister of Elda Bruning passed away on Christmas Day. Elda will be traveling to Missouri for the services.
- Patricia Knudsen, friend of Trudy Loomis, passed away recently. May the promise of God's resurrection bring peace to the families and friends of Wanda Smith and Pat Knudsen.

Please pray for the following people that are near and dear to our hearts:

- Debi Hetland had a bad fall recently, spent days in ICU, and is now home. Sending a card? Address is on the narthex bulletin board.
- Brad and Rick, friends of Vernon & Jane Johnson's, who are dealing with cancer of the esophagus and parkinsons, respectfully.
- Debbie Swan, June & Steve May's daughter is now at Maple Crest Nursing Home, Belvidere.
- Bill Byers, Jane Johnson's brother has been exposed to Covid. Bill lives at Wesley Willows in Rockford.
- Brad Arnold had knee surgery on December 28th. Kelly had her knee surgery on Dec. 6th. She is doing well.
- 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.