

Blessed

are the poor  
in spirit.

Matthew 5:3

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

*Saturday, January 28, 2023*

*With readings for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, January 28, 2023**

(with scripture readings for the 4th Sunday after the Epiphany)

**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.

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

**C** O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mt. 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:** “Blessed Assurance”

**WOV 699**

## **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

O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.” <sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 15** (Read responsively by half verse)

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### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God,

the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, {Jesus} went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

## **SERMON: "THE PROMISE OF BLESSINGS"**

**SONG:** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

**LBW 294**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

LBW p.85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.85

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life. As citizens of the reign of God, we know well the blessedness which we have been given. May we be a vehicle of blessing for those whom have yet to know of your grace. Fill your church with power and equip us for all good works.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Creator, you give us the seasons and times of weather transitions that sustain the cycles of life and death. Through this winter season, may the ground be renewed in its fallowness. Provide adequate moisture for the spring planting and growing whether through rain or snow. May the creatures of earth, sea, and sky find adequate food supplies and shelter in harsh winter weather.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of Righteousness, guide the leaders of nations that they may be peacemakers and messengers of reconciliation and hope. Bring hope and healing to the lowly, oppressed and downtrodden. May our care for them be a sign of your in-breaking reign.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

Holy One, you are a strengthening and sustaining presence for all your people. Pour out your blessed presence for those suffering from depression, illness, poverty, or injustice [especially ...]. May they who are poor in Spirit remain confident that you are a faithful God who remembers your children in every situation.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p.91

**OFFERING**

**CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

Based on the Song of Simeon, also known as the "Nunc Dimittis" (Luke 2:29-32)

**P** Lord, now you dismiss your servants in peace.

**C** Now, Lord, knowing your promises, we can depart in peace; and one day, we can depart this world in peace.

**P** Our eyes have seen God's salvation!

- C** “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!” We have seen Christ, with the eyes of faith.
- P** He has prepared His salvation in the sight of every people.
- C** By a star, God led Gentiles from the east to His infant son. His salvation is for all people – not just for some.
- P** God’s Son is the light of the world, revealing Him to all nations.
- C** May we too be the light of the world, as Christ has called us.
- P** He is the glory of God’s people Israel.
- C** We thank God for His chosen people, and for His Messiah, Jesus Christ. And we thank Him for making us, and all who believe in Jesus, His chosen people!
- P** Glory 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:** “Give Me Jesus”

**WOV 777**

**THE BENEDICTION**

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

**Church Office:** (815)522-3886

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**Pastor:** Thomas Thorstad, (716) 990-6244 (c)

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

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**Organist:** Nancy Plote

**Saturday Hosts:** Richard & Peggy Wince

**Offering Counters:** Mary Loomis & Donna Koehnke

**Attendance Last Saturday:** 1/21:21

**Attendance Sunday, 1/22:** 45

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Alice Hintzsche 1/28

Janelle Pahnke 1/28

Becca Crain 1/30

Bob Coyle 1/31

Keith Krabbe 1/31

Carolyn Suhr 2/2

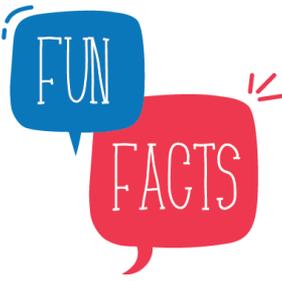
Josie Brykowski 2/3

No Anniversaries that are recorded in our church records. If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please share with me as I would like our records to be as complete as possible. Dianna Wittwer



**THANK YOU from Debi Hetland for all the cards and prayers!**

## CHURCH FUN FACTS



Rev Lindholm's family moved into the new \$1,000 parsonage on South and 6<sup>th</sup> Street on July 2, 1890. He agreed to pay the interest on the \$1000 loan as house rent.

(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)

### SHOP NOW FOR PERSONAL CARE KITS

We will be collecting all items from mid- January through mid-February. You may bring any of the above items, you do not have to put a kit together. If you choose to make a kit, you may. All of the supplies will be taken to our local NALC disaster relief location.

#### Health Care Kit

*(Pack in 2-gallon Ziplock or tote bag)*

- o 1 bath towel
- o 1 wash cloth (optional)
- o 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- o 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- o 1 toothbrush
- o 1 pack of floss (optional)
- o 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- o 1 comb
- o 1 deodorant
- o 1 nail clippers (optional)



Pick up your End of Year statements.  
Bring the Annual Reports Booklet with you when you attend the FLC ANNUAL MEETING THIS Sunday, January 29, 2023,  
at 10:15 A.M.

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.

Sunday, 1/29: Join us after the service for our Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:15am.

Monday 1/30: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 1/31: Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 2/1: NO On-line Bible Study this week.

Thursday 2/2: Food Truck Delivery, 8am; Lydia Circle Bible Study, 1pm.  
NO Confirmation Class this week.

Saturday 2/4: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 2/5: Communion Service, 9am, with Sunday School to follow.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

- Pastor's Conference Jan. 30 – Feb. 2 in San Antonia, Tx. Pray for safe travels to and from; and for the Conference to be up-lifting.
- Chris Droes, Gary Steinhorst's cousin is in hospice care now.
- 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 Debi Hetland, Carolyn Suhr, Jerry Sheehan, Ryleigh Joos, Jason Gorski, and Loraine Steinhorst (Gary Steinhorst's mother).
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- All NALC churches that are searching for a Pastor.
- The NALC, NALS, and the Great Rivers Mission District.

## **Lessons for Next Week**

Isaiah 58:3-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12;  
Matthew 5:13-20