



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

*Saturday, January 7, 2023  
With readings for the Baptism of Our Lord*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, January 7, 2023**

(with scripture readings for the Baptism of Our Lord)

**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:** “Shall We Gather at the River”

**WOV 690**

## **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**

Almighty and everlasting God, by the baptism of your beloved Son you manifested your Triune nature and your will to save us. May we remember our own baptism so that we may daily die to sin and walk in newness of life; 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**

Isaiah 42:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. <sup>9</sup>Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 29** (Read responsively by half verse)

p. 228

### **SECOND READING**

Romans 6:1-11

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

<sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **SERMON: "THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE"**

**SONG:** "How Firm a Foundation"

**LBW 507**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

LBW p.85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.85

Lord God, you call us by name and make us your own in the waters of Baptism. Strengthen all those who are newly baptized, those who have affirmed their baptism, and those whose baptismal anniversary is this week. Give to them and to all the baptized the grace to trust in the resurrection of Christ, and through believing to have life in his name.

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

Gracious Lord, as we meet together as a congregation, we give you thanks for all you have done among us in the previous year. Guide us

by your Word, so in our conversations and deliberations, we would work together in faith to strengthen and build up this congregation. Inspire us by your Spirit, that we may be your witnesses and serve your will in this community and in the world.

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

Gracious Father, Scripture says that you have been our hope and trust from the days of our youth (Psalm 71:5). We pray that you would be with young people, that they would feel your power and presence in their lives. Guide them through these difficult and confusing times, and lead them on the path of faithfulness, that their lives may give you glory.

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

Almighty, merciful God, heal our infirmities and those of loved ones [especially ...]. We who cry out of the depths to you plead for your mercy. Grant us the forgiveness of our sins and help us to wait patiently in hope for your final salvation.

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

**THE LORD'S PRAYER  
OFFERING**

LBW p.91

**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.

**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:** Chuck Huey & Darla McManus

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

Attendance Last Saturday: 12/31:16

Attendance Sunday,1/1: 24

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Sara Hag 1/7

Jennifer Block 1/8

Jennifer Sunderlage 1/9

Charlee Boehmer 1/12/2020

Michael Hall 1/12/2010

Kay Newberry 1/13

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

**CHURCH FUN FACTS**

Gary Ecklund recently found the very first 1873 church record book; despite its being written in Swedish, we now know 19 of the original 22 members coming from ten families.

(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)



## **FLC ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:15 A.M.**

The Annual Report Booklets will be ready January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.

### **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 started on January 5, 2023.

Sunday, 1/8: Join us after the service for coffee and Adult Forum resumes in Fellowship Hall! Newsletter items due today.

Tuesday 1/10: Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution., 12-2pm.  
Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 1/11: On-line Bible Study resumes, 7pm.

Thursday 1/12: Confirmation Class will resume next week.

Saturday 1/14: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 1/15: Communion Service, 9am.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Rev. Dr. James Nestingen died suddenly on Saturday, December 31. Please keep his wife, Carolyn, and the family in your prayers. Information shared from the NALC is on the narthex bulletin board.

- Mary Elmore, Doug Elmore's daughter was killed in a car accident on Monday, Jan. 2.

May the promise of God's resurrection bring peace to the families and friends of Rev. Nestingen and Mary Elmore.

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.
- All those who have Covid or have been exposed to it.
- Bill Byers, Jane Johnson's brother has been exposed to Covid. Bill lives at Wesley Willows in Rockford.
- Brad and Rick, friends of Vernon & Jane Johnson's, who are dealing with cancer of the esophagus and parkinsons, respectively.
- Debbie Swan, June & Steve May's daughter is now at Maple Crest Nursing Home, Belvidere.
- Brad Arnold had knee surgery on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Kelly had her knee surgery on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. 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).
- 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.
- All NALC churches that are searching for a Pastor.
- The NALC, NALS, and the Great Rivers Mission District.

### **Lessons for Next Week**

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a