



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

*Sunday, January 8, 2023  
Baptism of Our Lord*

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**Sunday, January 8, 2023**

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.

LBW – green hymnal    \*Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## Order of Service

- \*Brief Order for Public Confession P. 77
- \*Sharing of Peace
- \*Opening Hymn: “Shall We Gather at the River” **WOV 690**
- \*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78
- \*Glory to God in the Highest P. 80
- \*Prayer of the Day (*read in unison with Pastor Tom*)

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.

Children’s Sermon

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.”

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.

\*Alleluia

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\*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."

Sermon: **"THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE"**

*Hymn of the Day: "How Firm a Foundation"	<b><u>LBW 507</u></b>
*Apostles' Creed	P. 85
*Offering	
*Create in Me A Clean Heart	P. 96
* Prayers of the Church	P. 97

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.*

\*Lord's Prayer

P. 97

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

\*Closing Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

**LBW 221**

\*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

\***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude

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

Website: [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org)

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

[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

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

[secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org)

**Organist:** Pauline Cultra

**Ushers:** James Haag (head Usher), Robert & Lisa Coyle

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

Attendance Last Saturday: 12/31: 16

Attendance Sunday, 1/21 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

### **Lessons for Next Week**

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

## 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)

### **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.



**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.

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 Drees, (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.