



Unless one  
is born of water  
and the Spirit,  
he is unable to see the  
kingdom of God.

John 3:5

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

*Sunday, March 5, 2023*  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*  
**First Sunday in Lent – March 5, 2023**

**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 your pew. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who believe that Christ is present in this Sacrament are invited to share in His supper. The inner glasses on the tray are grape juice and water, the rest of the glasses are wine. Children who have not received Communion instruction should kneel at the altar with their arms crossed upon their chest to receive a Baptismal blessing.

LBW – green hymnal    WOV – blue hymnal    \*Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

- \*Brief Order for Public Confession P. 98
- \*Opening Hymn: “Lift the High the Cross” **LBW 377**
- \*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 99
- \*Glory to God in the Highest P. 100
- \*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies. Grant this, we pray, 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 (Children attend Sunday School after this.)

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

**PSALM 121** (Read responsively by whole verse)

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**SECOND READING:**

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." <sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring — not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" — in the

presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lenten Sentence

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\*Gospel:

John 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

# Sermon: "LIVING IN THE NEW BIRTH"

\*Hymn of the Day: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

WOV 771

\*Nicene Creed

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\*Prayers of Church

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Almighty God, in your most precious Word you speak to us the words of life. As we seek to serve you day by day, grant us the grace to seek first that which shall not be taken from us, the salvation which you have given us in Jesus Christ. May we stand in confidence at the foot of his cross, listening as you speak to us. *Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of majesty, sustain us through our Lenten journey of renewal, reflection, and repentance. Keep us faithful in our spiritual disciplines so that as we experience your presence you draw us more deeply into the center of your love. Grant us a holy and blessed Lent.

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

Spirit of strength, protect us with your love so that we might proclaim your glory to all nations. Be present in those countries that struggle to attain freedom from tyranny and persecution, and safety from violence. Keep us mindful of our connection with our neighbors in every land, and help us to work for justice and dignity for all people.

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

Holy and mighty God, around the world your children suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Pour out the healing power of your grace and love. Strengthen and give comfort to all who are in pain, grief, or suffering anxiety. [We pray especially for ...] May we be your presence for those who suffer and those who provide care.

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

\*Sharing of the Peace

Offering

\*Create in Me

(Back Hymnal Cover)

\*Offertory Prayer

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\*Great Thanksgiving

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*Words of Institution	P. 110
*The Lord's Prayer	P. 113
Lamb of God	P. 114
Communion Distribution	
*Lord, Now You Let Your Servant	P. 116
*Benediction	P. 117
*Threefold Amen	
*Closing Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"	<b><u>WOV 699</u></b>
*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!	
<b>*Congregation: Thanks be to God!</b>	

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

**Pastor:** Tom Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)

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

**Pianist:** Jill Vodden

**Lay Reader:** Lenny Peterson

**Ushers:** Louie Mielke (Head usher), Jo Boehmer, Chris & Ashley Boyer

**Offering Counters:** Roger Bauer and Susan Wilson

**Attendance Last Saturday,** 2/25;12

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

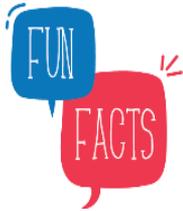
[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

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

**Coffee Servers:** Louie Mielke

**Acolyte:** Keegan Marshall

**Attendance Sunday,** 2/26; 26



### **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

Electricity was added to the church and parsonage in 1904.

In 1928 the surplus in the Luther League account was applied toward installing water and a bath at the parsonage.

### **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Cindy Stoll 3/4    Onie Luepkes 3/5

### **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!**

Vernon & Jane Johnson 3/7/64

If I have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let me know –  
Dianna.

## **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

This Lenten schedule runs each Wednesday, March 1 -29.

### **5:45pm – Lenten Supper**

3/8 Lydia - Spaghetti

3/15 Soup Sampler (Watch for sign-up)

3/22 Sunday School - sloppy joes      3/29 Men - pork chops

### **6:45pm –Lenten Vespers Service**

The theme for all the Lenten Vespers services will be:

### **“PLACES OF THE PASSION”**

3/8 The Mount of Olives

3/15 Gethsemane

3/22 The Courtyard

3/29 Pilate’s Judgement Hall

**Confirmation class** will continue to be on Thursdays at 5:30pm.

### **SOUP SAMPLER MID-WEEK LENTEN MEAL**

On Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have a soup sampler Lenten dinner, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. You may bring your favorite soup to share.

### **PRAYER VIGIL**

The Prayer Vigil is a time to have private time with God to share prayers and thanksgiving. This year’s prayer vigil will have two separate sessions. Please sign-up for a 30-minute time slot or two. The sessions will be offered from 8:30pm – 11pm on Friday and then again from 6am – 3pm on Saturday.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:**

We are looking for a member or two to lead the Vacation Bible School. We are hoping to have VBS scheduled for the second or third week in June. Please let Pastor Tom or Jo know that you are interested.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Sunday 3/5: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee after service.

Adult Forum, 10:30am.

Tuesday 3/7: Worship & Music Team mtg, 9:30am.

Food Pantry set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Wednesday 3/8: Lenten Dinner, 5:45pm;

Lenten Vespers Service, 6:45pm.

Thursday 3/9 Confirmation Class, 5:30pm. Church Council, 7pm.

Saturday 3/11: Worship Service with blessing of Personal Care kits, 5:30pm.



Sunday 3/12: Worship Service with blessing of Personal Care kits, and

Sunday School, 9am. Newsletter Items due today!

## **PARISH CONCERNS**

Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need, including those mentioned here:

- James Bauman, 79, died 2/26. He & wife Beulah live in MN.
- Jason Gorski has started a new chemo medication, hoping it will make a difference.
- George Vodden fell and broke his nose.
- 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, Jason Gorski, and Loraine Steinhorst (Gary Steinhorst's mother).
- All pregnant women and the babies they are carrying.
- 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:**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-9; Romans 5:1-8;

John 4:5-26 [27-30, 39-42]