



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

*Sunday, April 16, 2023*  
*Second Sunday of Easter*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Second Sunday of Easter, April 16, 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, pass it down the pew for others to register and then place it in the offering plate. After worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.



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 or 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

\*Please stand as able.

Prelude

## Order of Service

Welcome and the Announcements

\*Brief Order for Public Confession

P. 56

\*Opening Hymn: "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

**LBW 147**

\*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie

P. 57

\*This Is the Feast

P. 60

\*Prayer of the Day

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. 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.

Children's Sermon

First Reading

Acts 5:29-42

<sup>29</sup>Peter and the apostles answered {the high priest and the council}, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.

<sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give

repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” <sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Psalms 148 (*responsively by whole verse*)

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Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though

you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

\*The Alleluia

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\*Gospel

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon: **"REACH OUT AND TOUCH"**

\*Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!"

**LBW 133**

\*Nicene Creed

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\*Prayers of the Church

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Holy Father, you have invited us to the banquet of your Son. We thank you for this gift of grace and for your promise of forgiveness. Lead us to your table with humble and repentant hearts, so that we may hear your Word for us. Make us mindful of your presence with us as we share in communion with you and one another. *Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of all creation, in many parts of your world the creation has begun its annual process of rebirth. As shoots sprout forth from the earth and trees put forth their buds, help us to see in these everyday miracles a hint of the promised glory of our own resurrection through your Son, Jesus.

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

God of mercy, teach us to recognize the priceless treasures of grace and reconciliation you have given us in your Son, Jesus and then to be bold and generous in offering that same grace to those who may have hurt us. In a world divided on many fronts, may your Spirit lead us to be agents of reconciliation and peace.

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

Healer of our every ill, in every corner of the world your children suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Many lack the basic necessities for life – clean water, nutritious food, and adequate shelter. Others find themselves overcome with grief and despair, while still others face the challenges of medical concerns. Empower your church to be sources of healing and wholeness and voices of hope.

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

\*Sharing of Peace

Offering

\*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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\*Offertory Prayer

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\*Great Thanksgiving

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\*Words of Institution

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\*The Lord's Prayer

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Lamb of God

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## Communion Distribution

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- \*Thank the Lord
- \*Benediction
- \*Threefold Amen
- \*Closing Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing" **LBW 259**
- \*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!
- \***Congregation: Thanks Be to God!**
- \* Postlude

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Ps. Deuane

Ushers: Roger Bauer, (Head Usher), Jean Bauer, Lenny Peterson and Elaine Mitchell

Offering Counters: Jean Bauer & Mary Loomis

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Coffee Server: Louie Mielke

Acolyte: Reagan Cook

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Debi Hetland 4/10	Jim Hetland	4/11
Connie Worden 4/13	Jill Vodden	4/17

Some have celebrated their birthday already, please wish them a happy belated birthday.



## **Pauline Cultra 4/20 (90<sup>th</sup>)**

Please send her a card! On the narthex bulletin board there is an envelope with her address on a label.

## **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!**

No Anniversaries this week. If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let me know. Thank you, Dianna



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Val Norris has agreed to direct VBS this year. VBS will be June 5-8, 2023. She will need volunteers to help and donations for supplies and snacks. More information will be provided soon.

### **Church Treasurer Update:**

This past council meeting on April 11, 2023 Gary Steinhorst resigned as treasurer and the council appointed Ryan Block to fulfill the remainder of Gary's term. The Council accepted the resignation and extended a deep thanks to Gary for his 18 years of service. Gary was appointed as an advisor to Ryan to help with the transition of taking over the Church Treasurer. We are thankful to Ryan for stepping up as our next church Treasurer.

### **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

In 1953 Wayne and Jane Paulson built a four by six-foot addition on the back of their garage to house a boiler to heat its upstairs so they could raise chinchillas there. Vehicles swerved around this addition until the alley crookedly moved toward church property.

Watch for Spring Fling information and June 3<sup>rd</sup> Ice cream Social.

Sunday 4/16: Join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Adult Forum 10:30am. Newsletter Items due today!

Monday 4/17: Food Truck Delivery, 9:30am.

Tuesday 4/18: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.  
Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 4/19: On-line Bible Study resumes, 7pm

Saturday 4/22: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 4/23: Worship Service, 9am. Sunday School to follow.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- VBS, pray for many children and many volunteers.
- Pastor Ian Griffith, full recovery from jaw surgery.
- Jason Gorski, as he battles cancer.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying,
- 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.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- 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.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.

### **Lessons for Next Week:**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-16; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35