

**The Spirit himself
bears witness
with our spirit
that we are
children of God.**

Romans 8:16



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

*Sunday, July 16, 2023
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

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Readings for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshipping 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 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 the Announcements

Order of Service

*Brief Order for Public Confession P. 77

*Opening Hymn: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" **WOV 783**

*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78

*This Is the Feast P. 81

*Prayer of the Day

Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, 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 Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall

my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Psalm 65:9-14 (responsively by whole verse)

P. 243

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

*Alleluia

P. 83

*Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does

not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Sermon: **“WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE?”**

*Hymn of the Day: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” **LBW 499**

*Nicene Creed P. 84

*Prayers of the Church P. 85

Lord God, you call us together as the Church — not just as an individual congregation, but as people from around the world who are one in Jesus Christ. We thank you for the opportunity you give us to serve together with one another. Bless our cooperative ministries and the ministries of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Strengthen our work as the body of Christ.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of creation, you give us the earth to tend and plants for food. In the midst of these summer months, we pray for adequate rainfall to support plant growth, so that as the plants flourish the harvest will be plentiful and your children may be fed.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Most gracious God, you have promised to be with us always. To those whom you have given many years, grant that they may continue to join in thanking you for all the bounty of your overflowing love. Continue to uphold them, Lord, with strength and dignity in your loving care. Abide with them, gracious God,

that they might continue to bear witness to your unending presence.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

We give thanks, everlasting Father, for your servants who have departed this life in faith and now share the joys of your heavenly kingdom. We humbly ask that, with them, we may live in Christ and die in him, and at the last awaken in his likeness in the resurrection to life everlasting.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

*Sharing of Peace

Offering

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

P. 86

*Offertory Prayer

P. 87

*Great Thanksgiving

P. 88

*Words of Institution

P. 90

*Lord's Prayer

P. 91

Lamb of God

P. 92

Communion Distribution

*Thank the Lord

P. 92

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

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Jo Boehmer

Ushers: Louie Mielke (Head usher), Sue Peterson, Bob & Lisa Coyle

Attendance Last Saturday 7/7: 15

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Acolyte: Reagan Cook

Last Sunday, 7/8: 29

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you, Pastor Marybeth Howe, for providing pulpit supply for this weekend. Next week Pastor Keith Forni will be here and the last week of July, Pastor Phil Gronbach will be here.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Reagan Cook 7/14/10 Chris Krabbenhoft 7/14
Wyatt Wittwer 7/20/22

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!

Joshua & Marcynda Atkinson 7/19/14

CHURCH FUN FACTS

In the fall of 1984 Ferenc Szabo, the refugee we helped resettle, left for Cleveland.

FUTURE DATES:

Saturday, September 16th, 1-4pm a celebration of Marvin Bernhardt's "90th" birthday.

Sunday, October 29, 9am Anniversary and Reformation service.
It will be a very special day!

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 119:57-64; Romans 8:18-27;
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



OUR FLOAT WON 2nd PLACE!!

Congratulations to all who helped decorate the parade float! We won second place!!!

Thank you to all who supplied candy and water, it was greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Bob & Lisa Coyle and Paul McCarthy for building the church replica, Vernon & Jane Johnson who stored the trailer and all who rode the float – Pastor Tom; John, Jo, Audrey, Charlee and Addie Boehmer.

Thank you,
Dan & Janelle Pahnke

Sunday 7/15: Join us after the service in the fellowship hall for coffee.

Newsletter items are due.

Monday 7/17: Food Truck Delivery, 9 am.

Tuesday 7/18: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Saturday 7/22: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 7/23: Worship Service, 9am.

If you need pastoral care while Pastor Tom is on vacation, please call Marybeth at (815) 762-1381.

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- Irene Kuusisto died on June 25th, she attended during Covid.
May God's peace be with her family.
- Louie Mielke's vision is getting better. Praise God!
- All who are traveling throughout the summer months especially Pastor Tom & his family.
- Mark Bernhardt, son of Marvin & Wanda Bernhardt and brother to Lisa & Bob Coyle, has been diagnosed with lymphoma.
Mark will see an oncologist soon.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially Chuck Schindler, Ina Koehler, James Klus, David Sanderson, and Susan & Jim Colgan.
- Lonn Buzzell has had surgery for a broken leg.
- Elaine Mitchell is home, visits are welcome, however contact Heather (Emerich) Von Bergen 1st.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Taylor Norris, due in August.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Nancy Bakanas, George Vodden and many others.
- All elected leaders, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- Ben Blobaum, pray for God's leading to his 1st church.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, and all Christian churches.