



First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873
Saturday, July 22, 2023
(With Readings for the 8th week after Pentecost)

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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.

LBW – green hymnal WOV – blue hymnal *Please stand

THE SERVICE BEGINS

P We begin this service IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:

C Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for creating all living things and causing them to grow;

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whom we have been born anew, help us to grow up in every way into You, who are our Lord;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C Dear Holy Spirit, you have called us all and gathered us together as the Body of Christ, the Church. Help your church to grow – in numbers, in faith, and in love.

All: AMEN!

OPENING SONG: “Blessed Assurance”

WOV 699

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our weakness and sin, and hear the comfort of God.

C Dear Holy Spirit, we do not know how to pray as we ought. We confess that we have lived according to the flesh, with our minds set on the things of the flesh. We know this is death. We pray that each day you will set us free, setting our minds on the things of the Spirit, which is life and peace. *(Romans 8:5-6,26)*

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P The Spirit helps us in our weakness, and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. You are no longer in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. His peace be with you!

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; that you may hear our petitions. In all things, help us to ask for what will please you; 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 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

P The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

PSALM 119:57-64 (read responsively by whole verse) p. 275

SECOND READING:

Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts

knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴Jesus put another parable before {the disciples}, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

**"OF SEEDS AND WEEDS:
STEADFAST UNTIL THE HARVEST"**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, there is no one like you, and so, we trust in you alone. As you have called the whole Church to be your witnesses, proclaiming to the world the good news of him who has been prophesied since ancient times, give us all boldness to declare your salvation and sow the Gospel seed.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

Gracious God, turn the concerns of the Church to your Word. Give her a heart for you alone, that she may keep your commandments, and bring you honor so people will know that God is in their land. May they see that you are the God of steadfast love and mercy.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

God of all hope, sometimes it seems like everything is futile. Help us to rely on faith instead of feelings, upon what we know to be true because of your promises instead of the false signals given through the sorrows of this present time. Cause us to consider these trials in light of the glory that awaits us through Christ. Give the hopeless courage to wait with patience for what they do not see, yet know to be true because of the witness of your Spirit.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

God of all righteousness, merciful Lord, being confident that you answer the prayers of your people, we humbly ask that you heal the sick, feed the needy, and care for those who grieve. We pray especially for these we name before you now: _____. Give them and all who are in need, the peace and blessed assurance that on that Day, the righteous in Christ will shine like the sun in the kingdom of his Father.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

**LORD'S PRAYER
OFFERING**

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

(The prophecy of Joel, recorded in Acts 2:17-21)

- P** In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
C And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy!
P And your young men shall see visions!
C And your old men shall dream dreams!
P Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
C Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "God Be with You til We Meet Again"

REC 55

1. God be with you till we meet again,
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again,

Refrain:

Til we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Til we meet, till we meet,
God be with you til we meet again

2. God be with you till we meet again,
Neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again,
Refrain

3. God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again,
Refrain

4. God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threat'ning waves before you,
God be with you till we meet again, Refrain

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Nancy Plote

Hosts: Lynne Peterson

Attendance Last Saturday, 7/15: 12

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Offering Counters: Lisa Coyle & Renee Krabbe

Last Sunday, 7/16: 33

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you, Pastor Keith Forni for providing pulpit supply for this weekend. Pastor's wife, Ruth is also attending service. Thank you for traveling to First Lutheran Church.

Next week Pastor Phil Gronbach will be here.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!

Elsie Sanford 7/25

Marissa Hernandez /25/06

Joyce Schmidt 7/26

Angela Nelson 7/28

Ryan Anderberg 7/30/14

Alex Sunderlage 7/31

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!

Jeff & Michelle Anderberg 7/23/11

Mark & Josie Brykowski 7/28/07

FUTURE DATES:

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

Sunday, October 29, 9:30am Anniversary and Reformation service. It will be a very special day!

CHURCH FUN FACTS

In 1945 First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kirkland became self-sustaining and no longer received aid as a mission church, which we started receiving during Rev. Ralph Nelson's tenure (1930-1944).

Next Week's Readings:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Psalm 125; Romans 8:28-39;

Matthew 13:44-52

Sunday 7/23: Join us after the service in the fellowship hall for coffee and fellowship.

Tuesday 7/25: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Saturday 7/29: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 7/30: Worship Service, 9am.

Monday 7/31: Clothes Closet open 12-1:30pm

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

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 upcoming convocation Aug. 7-11 in Oklahoma. Pastor Tom will be attending.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, and all Christian churches.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements for the first half of 2023 (January – June) are available upon request, Dianna will print a copy for you.