



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

*Sunday, July 23, 2023
8th Sunday after Pentecost*

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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.

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Order of Service

- *Brief Order for Public Confession P. 77
- *Opening Hymn: “Blessed Assurance” **WOV 699**
- *Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78
- *Glory to God in the Highest P. 80
- *Prayer of the Day P. 82

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.

Children’s Sermon

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.”

Psalm 119:57-64 (*responsively by whole verse*)

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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.

*Alleluia

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*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."

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

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

WOV 771

*Apostles' Creed

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*Sharing of Peace

Offering

*Create in Me A Clean Heart

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*Prayers of the Church

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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

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*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Closing Hymn: "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

*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: Lenny Peterson

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

Attendance Last Saturday 7/15: 12

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

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

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).



Enjoy a picnic, and a good book – the Bible!

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.