



Matthew
13:47

The kingdom of heaven is like
a net that was thrown into the sea
and gathered fish of every kind.

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873
Saturday, July 29, 2023
(With Readings for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost)

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(with scripture readings for 9th Sunday after Pentecost)

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.

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: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” **LBW 526**

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!

(Romans 8:1,9,11,26)

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, through your Son's death and resurrection you draw all creation into your eternal reign. Grant us the grace to recognize the signs of your reign that surround us every day and the faith to proclaim your coming kingdom to those who have yet to experience your mercy and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶{Moses said to the Israelites,} "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations"

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM 125 (read responsively by half verse)

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SECOND READING:

Romans 8:28-39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for

us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴{Jesus said to the disciples,} "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON: by **PASTOR PHIL GRONBACH**

SONG: "What Wonderous Love Is This"

LBW 385

STATEMENT OF FAITH – Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 85

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

For the whole Church, the vine you have planted, and made us the branches: Father, grant that we may bear that fruit you are seeking, that we may know love as you have defined it in the life

and death of your Son for us, and that our love for others may be genuine.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Timeless God, you are Lord over all our days. You have provided your people with times for work and for play, for toil and for rest. Be with those who are taking vacation time, that they may find respite and delight in the change of routine, pleasure in one another's company, and safety in their travel.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Spirit of love, pour out the bounties of your grace upon all who are married. Keep them together, strong in faith, certain in hope, and abounding in love, that their two lives, united by you into one, may bear witness to our blessings of forgiveness, joy, and unity in faith.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Abiding Lord, our lives are filled with challenges and questions that are difficult to understand. We thank you for your constant presence that gives us hope to face each day. Bring your healing touch to all who are hurting [particularly those we name to you now ...]. Pour out your healing spirit on all who are in need.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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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: "This Is My Father's World"

LBW 554

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **C** Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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Hosts: Richard & Peggy Wince

Attendance Last Saturday, 7/22: 21

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

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Offering Counters: Lisa Coyle & Renee Krabbe

Last Sunday, 7/23: 27

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you, Pastor Phil Gronbach for providing pulpit supply for this weekend. Pastor Tom will be back next week.

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!

Scott & Lori Schaben	8/3/13
Chuck & Donna Peterson	8/4/67
Tim & Dianna Wittwer	8/4/84

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

From February-March 1983 every member was visited for a 3-year commitment to the Building Fund to build our fellowship hall addition. The minimum goal was \$100,000; total pledged, \$164,000. The winning bid was \$235,000 from Hans Fleissmer in October 1983. Our original church cost \$3,785.14 in 1886.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

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

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 136:1-9 [23-26]; Romans 9:1-5 [6-13];
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday 7/30: Join us after the service in the fellowship hall for coffee.

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

Tuesday 8/1: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Thursday 8/3: Food truck delivery, 8am.

Saturday 8/5: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 8/6: Communion Service, 9am.

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 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.