



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*

*Sunday, July 30, 2023  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

**Ninth 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.

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: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”    **LBW 526**
- \*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78
- \*Glory to God in the Highest P. 80
- \*Prayer of the Day P. 82

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.

Children's Sermon

First Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

<sup>6</sup>{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. <sup>7</sup>It 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, <sup>8</sup>but 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.

<sup>9</sup>Know 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 ....”

Psalm 125 (*responsively by half verse*)

P. 280

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-39

<sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

<sup>29</sup>For 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. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What

then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He 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? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who 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. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor 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.

\*Alleluia

P. 83

\*Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

<sup>44</sup>{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. <sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea

and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And 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."

## Sermon by PASTOR PHIL GRONBACH

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| *Hymn of the Day: "What Wonderous Love Is This" | <b><u>LBW 385</u></b> |
| *Apostles' Creed                                | P. 85                 |
| *Sharing of Peace                               |                       |
| Offering (Women's Choir)                        |                       |
| *Create in Me A Clean Heart                     | P. 96                 |
| *Prayers of the Church                          | P. 97                 |

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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\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

\*Closing Hymn: "This Is My Father's World"

**LBW 554**

\*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:** Ashley Boyer

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

**Offering Counters:** Lisa Coyle & Renee Krabbe

**Attendance Last Saturday, 7/22:** 21

**Website:** [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org)

**pastor@kirklandflc.org**

**secretary@kirklandflc.org**

**Acolyte:** Lucas Boyer

**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:**

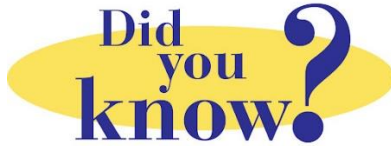
**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**, 1-4pm a celebration of Marvin Bernhardt's "90<sup>th</sup>" birthday.



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

## **CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

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



## **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.

### **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 and fellowship.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.