



**Be transformed  
by the renewal  
of your mind.**

**Romans 12:2**

*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First  
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873  
Saturday, August 26, 2023  
(With Readings for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)*

# *First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, August 26, 2023**

(with scripture readings for 13th 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

## **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:** "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

**WOV 783**

## **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**

Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, 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.

### **FIRST READING:**

Isaiah 51:1-6

<sup>1</sup>“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

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

**PSALM 138** (read responsively by half verse)

p. 283-284

### **SECOND READING:**

Romans 11:33-12:8

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! <sup>34</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” <sup>35</sup>“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” <sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 16:13-20

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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

**SERMON: “CALL TO LIVE HOLY”**

**SONG:** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

**LBW 367**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Loving Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow Christ, turning away from the ways of the world in order to put Jesus first in our lives. Conform our lives to his and continue to form us for service in your kingdom.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of light, grant your grace and mercy to all students, teachers, administrators and aids who are returning to school. Ensure that each classroom would be a place of learning and growth. Bless all those who teach and all those who learn, that your knowledge would enlighten their lives.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of all glory, grant that those who hold offices of authority would govern with equity and honesty, serving the needs of their constituents and acting fairly amongst all peoples. Let their hearts be attuned to your Holy Spirit as you work in their lives to accomplish your will.

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of healing and wholeness, grant new life to those who are in pain, that their suffering would end and they would be rejuvenated. Give your peace to those who are distraught or dejected, that they might have the strength to face the day, trusting in your mercy and healing power. We remember especially...

*Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p.97

**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:** "Praise and Thanksgiving"

**LBW 409**

- 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:** Jack & Josh Sunderlage

Attendance Last Saturday, 8/19: 13

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

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**Offering Counters:** Elda Bruning & Susan Wilson

Last Sunday, 8/20: 40

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Peggy Steinhorst	8/30
Dave Sanderson	8/30

## **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!**

Russ & Judy Lacefield	8/29/81
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**Clara Jane Norris** was born this August 15. She weighed 9lb and 2oz and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Heath and Taylor Norris, and big sister is Natalie. Grandma is Val Norris and great grandma is Ina Koehler.

## **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

President Anna Pearson led the first Ladies Aid in 1879. Through the years it has been called Augustana Lutheran Church Women, Women of ELCA, WLCA, WELCA, Rebecca, Lydia, Mary Martha, Friday Friends (which incorporated men.) Today only the Lydia Circle remains. Its eight members will study parables the first Thursday of the month from September 2023 through spring. You too can join them.

## **CHURCH LIGHTS & HEAT/AIR CONDITIONING**

If you notice the lights or the narthex heat/air conditioning on after a service, please feel free to turn them off. Help us to keep costs down.



## **ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Do you have **October 29** on your calendar? That's our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, and you are invited to a 9:30 am service followed by a Hy Vee catered dinner of ham and chicken with a short program after that. Although the dinner is a donation-only event, you need a reservation. There is limited seating available.

Call Connie Worden at 815-721-1605 or email the office at [secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org) by October 1.

## **BEN BLOBAUM'S CALL**

I just wanted to share the exciting update with you and FLC, that I just accepted a Call to St. John's in Flanagan, IL. Please express my gratitude to the congregation for all of their prayers throughout this final period of formation and discernment. Amy and I (and Josiah) are so very appreciative of all the love and support we have received from our home church.

Moreover, we look forward to joining you as ministry partners in the GRMD! And depending on my schedule, we hope to join you all for the 150th anniversary celebration in October.

To God alone be the glory,

Ben

(I received this email from Ben on Aug. 11th - Dianna)

Sunday 8/27: Join us after the service in the fellowship hall for coffee and fellowship.

Monday 8/28: Clothes Closet open 12-1:30pm

Tuesday 8/29: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Saturday 9/2: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 9/3: Communion Service, 9am.

Sunday 9/10: Rally Day! Sunday School begins.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Jim Hetland is dealing with on-going medical problems.
- Marage Harger (Sister in Law to Charmine) is not doing well.
- Dale Johnson is now at Lincolnshire Place in Sycamore.
- All who are traveling throughout the summer months.
- 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, Susan & Jim Colgan and Mark Bernhardt.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying.
- 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.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, and all Christian churches.

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28