



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

*Sunday, August 27, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost*

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Thirteenth 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: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" **WOV 783**
- *Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78
- *Glory to God in the Highest P. 80
- *Prayer of the Day P. 82

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.

Children's Sermon

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹"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. ²Look 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. ³For 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. ⁴Give 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. ⁵My 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. ⁶Lift 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.”

Psalm 138 (*responsively by half verse*)

P. 283-284

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

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

¹I 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. ²Do 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. ³For 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the 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.

*Alleluia

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*Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say

Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Sermon: “CALL TO LIVE HOLY”

*Hymn of the Day: “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” **LBW 367**

*Apostles' Creed P. 85

*Sharing of Peace

Offering

*Create in Me A Clean Heart P. 96

*Prayers of the Church P. 97

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

P. 97

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Closing Hymn: "Praise and Thanksgiving"

LBW 409

*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Bob Coyle

Acolyte: Abraham Thorstad

Ushers: Lenny Peterson (Head usher), Sue Peterson, Jo Boehmer

Offering Counters: Elda Bruning & Susan Wilson

Attendance Last Saturday, 8/19: 13

Last Sunday, 8/20: 40

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Peggy Steinhorst 8/30

Dave Sanderson 8/30

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Russ & Judy Lacefield 8/29/81



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 150th 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