

If anyone  
would come after me,  
let him deny himself  
and take up his cross  
and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*  
*Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873*  
*Saturday, September 2, 2023*  
*(With Readings for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)*

# *First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*

Saturday, September 2, 2023

(with scripture readings for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshipping 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.

## **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:** "Lift High the Cross"

**LBW 377**

## **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**

O Lord, mercifully continue to purify and defend your Church. Since she cannot stand firmly without your power, govern her always by your grace; 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**

Jeremiah 15:15-21

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

L The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 26** (read responsively by whole verse)

p. 226-227

### **SECOND READING**

Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in

harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the LORD." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 16:21-28

<sup>21</sup>Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

## **SERMON:**

**"HOW MUCH IS THE GOSPEL WORTH?"**

**SONG:** "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

**LBW 423**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH – Nicene Creed**

**LBW p.84**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Holy God, you protect us from the evil one and give us strength to withstand temptations that come our way. Help us to overcome evil with good and work for the best in the lives of all whom we encounter. Give us your love that we would love our enemies and do good to those who hate us.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the work that you have given us to do, and for your gifts of strength and knowledge to do it well. Remind us that even the most ordinary tasks have an extraordinary impact when done in your name. As we enjoy our daily bread, let us labor for the sake of others and be a blessing to them as well.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, grant courage and wisdom to our national leaders, to all who serve in government, and to the members of our armed forces. Guide them in the way of justice, truth, and peace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Healer, you encourage us not to worry about tomorrow, but instead to take up our cross and follow you. Grant us grace in the midst of trials and watch over those who are hurting or ill [especially ...]. Clothe your children in the glory of your loving presence today and always.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## **OFFERING**

### **WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts!

**C** We lift them up to the Lord!

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**



## THE BENEDICTION

**P** When Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper before his crucifixion, He promised His disciples that one day they would again feast together in the kingdom of heaven.

**C** Dear Lord, keep us steadfast in faith until that day!

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

**CLOSING SONG:** "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

**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:** Lynne Peterson

**Attendance Last Saturday 8/26:** 13

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

[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

[secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org)

**Offering Counters:** Jean Bauer & Lisa Coyle

**Last Sunday, 8/27:** 30

### **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Susan Wilson 9/4

Renee Krabbe 9/4

Judy Goltermann 9/5 **Harold Hintzsche 9/6 (90<sup>th</sup>)**

Matt Johnson 9/6

Wanda Bernhardy 9/7

Tracy Jones 9/8

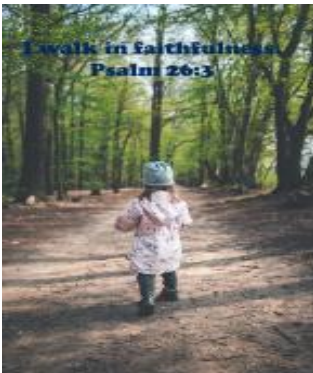
### **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!**

William & Jamie Wittwer 9/5/20

Roger & Jean Bauer 9/6/69

### **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

In 1953 the Ladies Aid maintained two Girl Scout groups who met in church rooms on Tuesday afternoons after school.



**Rally Day!** Sunday School will begin next week, already! Invite children and their parents to come. The children will listen to Pastor's children's sermon, then follow a Sunday School teacher to the lower level for their lessons & singing.

**Commissioning** of our newly confirmed students will also be next Sun., Sept. 10.

**Methodist Church Rummage Sale** - Sept 14-16. See flyer on bulletin board.

### **BEN BLOBAUM'S CALL**

Ben's ordination is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 5, at St. John's Lutheran Church 311 S Jackson St., Flanagan, IL.

Sunday 9/3: Join us after the service in the fellowship hall for coffee and fellowship.

Tuesday 9/5: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Thursday 9/7: Food Truck Delivery, 8am.

Lydia Circle Bible Study, 1pm.

Saturday 9/9: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 9/10: Worship & Rally Day Sunday, 9am. Adult Forum 10:30  
**Sunday School begins**, children will follow Ms. Sue to the lower level.

**Newly Confirmed students** will be commissioned to a volunteer position of their choosing.

### **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.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Sunday School Teachers and the students who will be attending.
- Jim Hetland is dealing with on-going medical problems.
- 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.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, and all Christian churches.

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

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20