



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*

*Sunday, September 3, 2023
14th Sunday after Pentecost*

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First

Sunday, August 3, 2023

14th Sunday after Pentecost

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.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who believe that Christ is present in this Sacrament are invited to share in His supper. The inner glasses on the tray are grape juice and water, the rest of the glasses are wine. Children who have not received Communion instruction should kneel at the altar with their arms crossed upon their chest to receive a Baptismal blessing.

LBW – green hymnal **WOV** – blue hymnal *Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and the Announcements

Order of Service

- *Brief Order for Public Confession P. 77
- *Opening Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" **LBW 377**
- *Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78
- *This Is the Feast P. 81
- *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.

Children's Sermon

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O 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. ¹⁶Your 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. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore 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. ²⁰And 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. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Psalms 26 (read responsively by whole verse)

p. 226-227

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the LORD." ²⁰To 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." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Alleluia

P. 83

*Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹Jesus 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. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from

you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”²³ 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.”²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.²⁶ 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?²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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.”

Sermon: **“HOW MUCH IS THE GOSPEL WORTH?”**

*Hymn of the Day: “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” **LBW 423**

*Nicene Creed P. 84

*Prayers of the Church P. 85

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.

*Sharing of Peace

Offering

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

P. 86

*Offertory Prayer

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*Great Thanksgiving

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*Words of Institution

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*Lord's Prayer

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Lamb of God

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Communion Distribution

*Thank the Lord

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*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Closing Hymn: "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

*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: Lenny Peterson

Ushers: Chris Boyer (Head usher), Ashley Boyer & James Haag

Offering Counters: Jean Bauer & Lisa Coyle

Attendance Last Saturday 8/26: 13

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Acolyte: Lucas Boyer

Last Sunday, 8/37: 30.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Susan Wilson 9/4

Renee Krabbe 9/4

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

Matt Johnson 9/6

Wanda Bernhardt 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.

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.

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.

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.
- All those who are affected by the flooding and Maui fires.
- 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