

Philippians 2:13

It is God  
who works in you,  
both to will and to work  
for his good pleasure.

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

*Saturday, September 30, 2023  
With Readings for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*(Meet in the Fellowship Hall due to painting of the  
Sanctuary.)*

# First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First

Saturday, September 30, 2023

(with scripture readings for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost)

WELCOME! We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. Once it is complete, place it in the offering plate.



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

## 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:** “Come, Thou Almighty King”

LBW 522

## 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 Almighty and most Merciful God, through your bountiful goodness, keep us from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that you would have us do. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the LORD God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

<sup>25</sup>“Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup>When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD God; so turn, and live.”

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

## SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

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

## GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-27

<sup>23</sup>When {Jesus} entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

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

## SERMON: "THE AUTHORITY WE NEED"

**SONG:** "What Wondrous Love Is This"

**LBW 385**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Nicene Creed

LBW p.64

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.65

Holy Spirit, giver of all spiritual gifts, grant us faith to follow Christ in all we do. Teach us your ways that we may be obedient to your will and open to your leading in our lives. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, your Spirit has called us together as your people in this place. Help us to be of the same mind as Christ Jesus our Lord, willing to empty ourselves for each other, the mission, and most of all for you. Grant us wisdom to work together for the sake of the Gospel and not for our own agendas.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, sovereign Lord, all rulers, powers, and dominions are subject to you. Grant that the leaders of all nations would govern with wisdom, justice, and equity for the good of all.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, our joys and sorrows are fully known to you. You grieve with us in our pain and sorrow and rejoice in our times of grace-filled joy. Bring healing to all those who are suffering from physical illness or injury, the pain of broken relationships, the sorrow of shattered hopes, and any kind of loss. [We pray particularly for ... .]

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **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**

LBW p.71

### **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.

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:** Tom Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)

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

**Pianist:** Nancy Plote

**Hosts:** Vernon & Jane Johnson

Attendance Last Saturday, 9/23 :15

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

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

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

**Offering Counters:** Susan Wilson & Angie Springborn

Last Sunday, 9/24:40

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Joanne Sanderson 10/2

Dawn Myelle-Watson 10/3

Trudy Loomis 10/6

Tom Hoffman 10/6

## **THANK YOU!!**

Thank you to the brothers & sisters of the church. Marge is doing better, and the prayers helped and are greatly appreciated!

Charmaine Massey, Marge & Jim Harger (Charmaine's brother & sister-in-law)

## **DISTRICT CONVOCATION**

The Annual Great Rivers Mission District convocation is Saturday, October 14, in Flanagan, Illinois. Keynote speaker will be Pastor Brad Hales from Reformation Lutheran Church in Virginia. He is also NALC Church Director for Church Planting/Aging and is a very dynamic speaker and motivator within the NALC. We are looking for another person/delegate to join Pastor Tom at this all-day event. If interested, please talk to the Pastor prior to the October 10 Council Meeting.

## **ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Have you RSVP'd for the Anniversary dinner? There is limited seating available. We are getting close to capacity, so call Connie Worden at 815-721-1605 or email the office at [secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org) by October 1.

## **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.

## **DESK**

A nice heavy desk, in good shape for anyone to take home. Donations are accepted for the Sunday School program. Please contact Susan Wilson (224) 629-0016. If nobody wants the items, I will advertise on marketplace, and Vsale. (the computer) and the monies collected will go towards Sunday school.

## **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

October 1982, we purchased the west lot (Allen property) for parking and a picnic area. In the fall of 1983 railroad fill was hauled, and it was made into a parking lot.

(This is the last of the church fun facts. Please thank Connie Worden for all of these fun facts over the past year)

## **BEN BLOBAUM'S ORDINATION**

Ben Blobaum's Ordination Invitation is on the narthex bulletin board.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday 10/1: Join us for coffee after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Forum, 10:30am.

Tuesday 10/3: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distr., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 10/4: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 10/5: Food Truck delivery, 8am; Lydia Circle Bible Study, 1pm.

Saturday 10/7: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 10/8: Worship Service with Sunday School to follow, 9am.

## PARISH CONCERNS

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

**Lois Swan**, who passed away on Sept.18. She turned 90 on 9/11. Her visitation and service will be Sunday, Oct. 1 at Laird Funeral Home, Elgin, IL from 12-2:30pm, with service to follow.

**Donna Peterson**, who passed away on Tuesday. Her services will be on Tues., October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Quiram-Olson Funeral Home, Kirkland. Visitation at 10a, Service at 12pm.

May God's promise of the resurrection bring peace to the families of Lois and Donna.

- Church painter, TJ Hillmer for safety and efficiency as he works.
- 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, Dale Johnson, and many others.
- All those who are affected by the natural disasters.
- 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:**

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46