



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

*Saturday, September 9, 2023  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

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**Saturday, September 9, 2023**

**15th 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 and pass it down the pew. Then after worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

LBW, green hymnal    WOV, blue hymnal

## **THE SERVICE BEGINS**

**P** We begin this service IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:

**C** Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for sending us the Holy Spirit, to be with us always and to remind us of your son;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** Dear Lord Jesus Christ, you comforted your followers with the promise of the Holy Spirit, who makes us holy;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** Dear Holy Spirit, you came upon the church at Pentecost. Fill the church with your presence and power, now and always!

**All: AMEN!**

**OPENING SONG:** "Jesus Loves Me"

1: Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so,  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain:* Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

2: Jesus loves Me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."  
*Refrain*

3: Jesus loves me, still today, walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.  
*Refrain*

## **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, who dwells in you. 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, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. 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**

Ezekiel 33:7-9

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

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

**PSALM 32:1-6** (Read responsively by whole verse)

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#### **SECOND READING**

Romans 13:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do

what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:1-20

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup>Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. <sup>10</sup>See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has

a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. <sup>15</sup>If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

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

## **SERMON:**

### **“HOW TO FIGHT LIKE A CHRISTIAN?”**

**SONG:** “Restore in Us, O God”

**WOV 662**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Apostles’ Creed

LBW p. 65

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Lord God, you have sent us into the world to be your witnesses. You have made us watchmen over those you love, and make us duty-bound to warn others of their disobedience. This is a difficult job and will cause heartache for man, but we trust your Holy Spirit to work in the lives of those you love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Wisdom, we ask your tender care and instruction for all students around the world, that they would have enough to eat in order to concentrate on lessons, have a peaceful learning environment, and loving yet diligent teachers to instruct them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bring the presence of your peace into places where violence is an everyday reality – our homes, our neighborhoods, our cities, and across your world. Bless and sustain all those who work for peace and advocate for an end to violence.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray this day for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Bring healing to the hopeless and courage to the ill. Be present with the unemployed and underemployed, those who struggle to make ends meet, and those who are despairing. We pray particularly for..

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p.71

**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:** "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

**LBW 535**

**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: Richard & Peggy Wince

Attendance Last Saturday, 9/2:9

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Last Sunday, 9/3:37

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Anna Wince 9/9    Lois Swan 9/11    Louie Mielke 9/12

Dolores Plote 9/13                      Marvin Bernhardt 9/16

**ANNIVERSARY** – 29 years ago on September 10, 1994, the Saturday evening worship services began.

## **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

In 1952 our Sunday School met in the town hall and church in Vrba Chapel for 7 months in 1952 during remodeling.



### **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.



**Rally Day!** Sunday School will begin this 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.

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

### **WNALC - Northern Great Rivers Mission District**

#### **Women's Fall Gathering**

There will be a meeting on Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> with a program at 10am in Sterling, IL. Lunch provided; RSVP needed. See the Narthex bulletin board for more information.

### **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 9/10: Join us after the service for coffee and cake in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Wanda Bernhardt's birthday.

Tuesday 9/12: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.  
Church Council, 7pm.

Wednesday 9/13: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 9/16: Marvin Bernhardt's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration in the Fellowship Hall, 1-4pm.

Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 9/17: Communion Service and Sunday School, 9am.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

**Praise God** – Chuck Schindler is doing better; he is home and is officially off hospice care!

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.
- 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:**

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12;  
Matthew 18:21-35