



WHERE DO WE
BELONG

Advent Series

Where the
Wild Things
Are

First Lutheran Church Kirkland

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

*Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent*

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First

Second Sunday of Advent - December 10, 2023

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. As it's passed back to you, remove the completed sheet and place it in the offering plate, after noting those who are sharing your pew. Then, after worship, you're encouraged to invite them for refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

LBW - green hymnal *Please stand as able.

PRELUDE:

Welcome and Announcements

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

Children's Recitations

"Away in a Manger"

LBW 67

Verse 1 Children only

Verse 2, 3 Congregation

Children's Recitations

"Holy Baby, Holy Child" Children Only

Children's Recitations **"Joy to the World"**

LBW 39

Verse 1 Children only;

Verses 2-4 Congregation

(Advent candle to be lit after the children have left the altar area and we are singing the hymn.)

Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of

good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

SERMON: "WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE"

- *Hymn of the Day "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry" **LBW 36**
(or "Prepare the Royal Highway" **LBW 26**)
- *Apostles' Creed P. 65
- Offering
- *Create in Me a Clean Heart P. 75
- *Prayers of the Church p. 76

Holy Father, as winter months bring colder temperatures in many parts of the world, work through your faithful people to care for those who are without adequate shelter. You are our dwelling place in all generations and we trust that you will provide shelter for the homeless, warmth for the cold, and food for the hungry.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Creator God, all things wither and perish, but you are the source of life even out of death. Remind those who sit in deepest gloom and despair that they are not beyond the reach of your love. Speak your word of hope and reconciliation to those people in your world who abide in dark valleys of division, despair, and tyranny. Bring all people to the light of your joyous peace.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Faithful God, you called John to prepare the way for Jesus, and you call each of us to do the same. Be with all the baptized, that we would continue to be strengthened through Word and Sacrament, attend to our relationship with you, and be bold in our proclamation of your saving love and desire for all people to know you. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of all comfort, strengthen all those who are weary and suffering that they might be renewed by your Holy Word, [especially those we name to you now. . .]

Guide your church to speak words of grace, mercy, and hope into a world wracked with pain and angst.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

*The Lord's Prayer

p. 76

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Closing Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

LBW 35

*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

*Congregation: Thanks be to God!

*Postlude

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Organist: Pauline Cultra

Lay Reader: Chris Mothkovich

Ushers: Keith Krabbe (Head Usher), Loraine Krabbe, Tadd Krabbe,

Offering Counters: Keith Krabbe & Elda Bruning

Attendance Last Saturday, 12/2: 10

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Coffee Server: Louie Mielke

Last Saturday, 12/3: 38 adults 15 children

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Carl Nelson 12/12

Elda Bruning 12/12 "85"

Everly Mielke 12/14/17

Jane Johnson 12/16

Please join us today after the service to celebrate Elda Bruning's birthday! A cake reception will be served in the fellowship hall.



**Children's
Christmas Program**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you, Sunday School students, teachers and helpers, for sharing the Christmas program this morning!



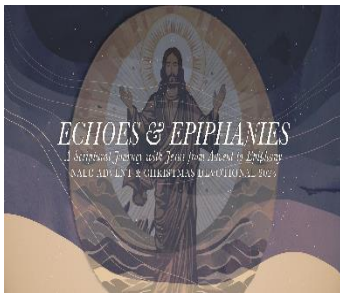
If any member or students are interested in playing as part of the prelude for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Please let Pastor Tom know. (716) 990-6244.

ARCHIVES

Today is the last day to select from the extra archive materials, that are in the narthex. Connie Worden will be removing them after Dec. 10th.

SOCKS BOX

The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission or other shelters. The socks are due to the church by Sunday, December 17th. Please place them in the "SOCKS BOX" in the Narthex.



NALC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year the theme is *Echoes & Epiphanies*. There are a few copies in the narthex, or you can read the daily devotionals from the website. Go to the website www.thenalc.org. You will be able to download a copy to your computer.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Poinsettias for our Christmas Memorial Garden are ready to order. Only 20 plants are available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, so **please order early**. They are \$10 each. There are forms and envelopes in the narthex. The filled forms may be placed into the offering plate or on Dianna's desk.

Orders are due Sunday, Dec. 17th.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Worship Service, 9am.

Candlelight Christmas Eve service with communion will be Sunday, Dec. 24th at 7pm.

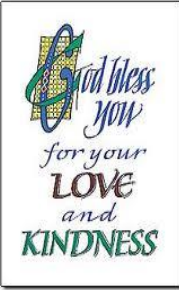
Christmas Day Service will be on Sunday, Dec. 25th at 9am.

Invite a friend or two.



The Joy
of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON



PLEDGE AND TIME & TALENT FORM

If you forgot to bring in your pledge envelope, please do so soon. This helps our budget committee plan for the next year.

OFFERING ENVELOPES will be created and available soon.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Reports due to Dianna on Thursday, Jan. 4th.

Booklets will be ready Jan. 13th.



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS: If you would like to make a year-end contribution for 2023, please have it into the church office on Thursday, Dec. 28 by noon. If you have any questions, please call Dianna Wittwer at the church office (815) 522-3886 or on my personal cell (815) 378-6654.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 12/10: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Elda Bruning's "85th" birthday! Adult Forum to follow.

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

NO COUNCIL MEETING.

Wednesday, 12/13: NO On-line Bible Study.

Thursday 12/14: Wittenberg Door Pastor's Fellowship, 10am.

Saturday 12/16: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 12/17: Communion Service, 9am.

PARISH CONCERNS:

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

- Beau Norris, age 11, will be having a cardiac procedure on Dec. 12th. Beau is the son of Brad & Denise, and grandson of Val Norris.
- Shannon Daab is in hospice, she is the mother-in-law of Mark Boehmer.
- Fallon Mitchell, daughter of Chris & Shannon Mitchell was born Prematurely and will stay in the hospital. Shannon is at home, recovering. Fallon is Elaine Mitchell's granddaughter.
- Mike Johnson, nephew of Vernon & Jane, was in a car accident and must wear a neck brace. Praise God, no paralysis.
- Emmaline Haag is having some kidney health 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, Jim Hetland, 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 Middle East unrest.
- 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.