



WHERE DO WE
BELONG

Advent Series

The End of
the World as
We Know It

First Lutheran Church Kirkland

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

*Saturday, December 2, 2023
With Readings for the First Sunday of Advent*

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First

December 2, 2023 – with readings for

The First Sunday of Advent

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.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

C Dear heavenly Father, you comforted your people with the promise that you would send us a savior;

P AND OF THE SON:

C Come Lord Jesus, the Son of God! Come in power and glory and victory! Come quickly, and save your people;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C Come upon us, O Spirit of power and might. Breathe on us your life-giving breath, that we may watch and wait for Christ's return.
Amen

SONG: "Joy to the World"

LBW 39

WE CONFESS

P With the words of Isaiah and the Psalms, we confess our sins and our grief, and we hear the comfort of the Lord.

C All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field: the grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. *Isaiah 40*

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. *Psalms 137*

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever! Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God! Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her punishment is over, that her guilt is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. Behold, the Lord is coming to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. *Isaiah 40*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence — ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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

PSALM 80:1-7 (*Read responsively by half verse*)

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SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the

day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴{Jesus said,} “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

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

SERMON:

“THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT”

SONG: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LBW 26

NICENE CREED

LBW p. 64

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of new beginnings, in these days of Advent prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word in ever powerful ways. By the power of your Holy Spirit, stir us to wait with joyful expectation for the coming of your Son.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of light and life, shine the light of your presence into our lives during these weeks of waning daylight. Fill the darkness of this world with your love, that all people would see your glory and know that you are the source of all good things.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Holy God, you give us signs of Jesus' return. Help us to see and discern those signs that we would be prepared for his coming and be ready for his arrival. Let us not be complacent in showing love to others. Let us not be slow to act when we see a neighbor in need. Let us not fall asleep spiritually, but continue to listen and watch for Jesus each day of our lives, serving him in faithfulness and devotion.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of comfort, your healing touch transcends time and space. Strengthen and console those who are anxious, grieving, lonely, ill, or discouraged in any way. [We pray particularly for ...] Shine the light of your presence into their lives through the compassion which your people share with them.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

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

C Amen.

P People of God, stay awake and alert, and fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called, to which you have today borne witness in the presence of many witnesses. The Lord is coming soon!

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

CLOSING SONG: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

LBW 34

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

Attendance last Saturday, 11/25:12 Last Sunday, 11/26: 34 adults 19 children

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Host: Vernon & Jane Johnson



CHRISTMAS DECORATORS – Thank you to all who helped in decorating our church for the Christmas season.

Thankful, Dianna

Check out the light pole up town as well.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Laura Block 12/1 Audrey Boehmer 12/1/2017 Sue Sester 12/2

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!

Larry & Judy McMurray 12/1/81

Jim & Debi Hetland 12/3/77

Russ & Chris Mothkovich 12/6/69

John & Lorene Roser 12/8/73

ARCHIVES

There are only 2 more weekends to select from the extra archive materials. Connie Worden will be removing them after Dec. 10th.

SOCKS BOX

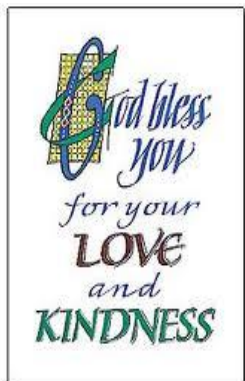
The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission or other shelters. The socks are due to the church by Sunday, December 17th. Please place them in the "SOCKS BOX" in the Narthex.





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.



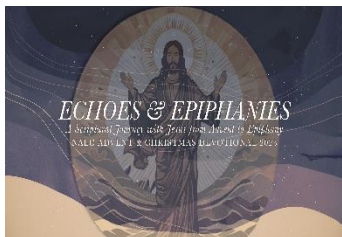
PLEDGE AND TIME & TALENT FORM

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, 2023

Reports due to Dianna on Thursday, Jan. 4th.
Booklets will be ready Jan. 13th.



NALC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year the theme is *Echoes & Epiphanies*. If you would like to read the daily devotionals go to the website www.thenalc.org. You will be able to download a copy to your computer.

This was available from the main screen as of today, 11/30. The readings begin on Sunday, Dec. 3rd.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 12/3: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, a snack, and Adult Forum.

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

Wednesday, 12/6: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 12/7: Food truck Delivery, 8am; Lydia Bible Study, 1pm.

Saturday 12/9: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Christmas in Kirkland, 1:00pm. See narthex bulletin board for details.

Sunday 12/10: Worship Service with Children's Program, 9am.

Celebrate Elda Bruning's birthday after the service.

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.