

WHERE DO WE BELONG

Christmas Eve

Home in the
Word



First Lutheran Church Kirkland

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

*Sunday, December 24, 2023
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD*



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CHRISTMAS EVE – Sunday, December 24, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to First Lutheran Church for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. We hope you will feel blessed by your participation and invite you to share in the Lord's Supper as we celebrate His birth. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is present may receive communion. Detailed instructions for continuous communion distribution are included in the bulletin.

LBW, green hymnal *Please stand as able.

Order of Service

Prelude

Greeting

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P.77

Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

*Prayer of the Day

O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; 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

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Psalm 110: 1-4 (Read responsively by half verse)

P. 269

Hymn: "What Child Is This"

LBW 40

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

*Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Sermon: **"HOME IN THE WORD"**

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LBW 41

*Nicene' Creed

p. 84

*Prayers of the Church

p.85

Offering

*Offertory Prayer

P. 87

*Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer #33)

P. 88-90

*Lord's Prayer

P. 91

*Lamb of God

p. 92

**Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Continuous Communion:



Proceed to the communion rail when the usher indicates, moving from the center aisle towards the side aisle. 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 stand at the altar with their arms crossed upon their chest for a baptismal blessing.

(After receiving communion, you may receive a candle.

Children under the age of 14 will receive a battery-operated candle.)

* Post Communion Prayer

P. 94

* The Benediction and Threefold Amen

P. 95

* Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

LBW 65

(Please extinguish candles after hymn.)

* **P** Go in Peace, serve the Lord **C** Thanks be to God

Postlude

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Laura Block

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Acolytes: Abraham and David Thorstad

Ushers: Keith Krabbe, (head usher), Loraine Krabbe, Tadd Krabbe, Vernon & Jane Johnson
and Matt Johnson

SOCKS BOX

There were 130 pairs of socks collected and delivered!
Many thanks to all who donated.



2023 END OF YEAR OFFERINGS – please have any offerings to be counted for 2023 to the office by Thursday, Dec. 28th by noon.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE READY!

The Offering envelopes for 2024 have been created and are ready in the Narthex. If you forgot to bring in your pledge envelope, please do so soon. This helps our budget committee plan for the next year. If you didn't receive offering envelopes last year and would like them, please let Dianna know. You may call me on my cell phone, (815)378-6654.

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

Reports due to Dianna on Thursday,
January 4th, 2024.



I would prefer reports be sent via email to
secretary@kirklandflc.org.
Booklets will be ready Jan. 13th.

Those who were on Council January- June 2023, I need a short report, (no more than half a page, please) from each of you.
Questions? Ask Dianna or call me (815) 378-6654.



Christmas Memorial Garden

*(remembering and honoring with love and affection
our families and loved ones, both past and present)*

GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Armin Koehler, grandfather by Brad & Denise Koehler

Doug Koehler, uncle, by Brad & Denise Koehler

Loved Ones, by Jean & Roger Bauer

Logan Thomas Marshall, by Jennifer & Ryan Block

Ray & Marion Littlejohn, Jen's grandparents, by Jen & Ryan Block

My son, Joel William, by Trudy Loomis

Jim Loomis, by his family

Ken, my husband, and Roger, my son, by Loraine Krabbe

Our Parents, by Richard & Peggy Wince

Our daughter, Dominique, by Richard & Peggy Wince

Pastor Tom, by the Boehmer family

Kirsten Boehmer, mother of Dom, Addi, Audrey & Charlee,
by the Boehmer family

Debra Nolf, by Robert & Lisa Coyle

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

GIVEN IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Curly Sanford, my husband, by Elsie Sanford

GIVEN IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN HONOR & THANKSGIVING:

All the faithful volunteers of First Lutheran Church,
by Jo & John Boehmer

YOUTH MINISTRIES

GIVEN IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Curly Sanford, my husband, by Elsie Sanford

My husband, Herb, and son, Tim, by Dolores Plote

My dad, Herb and my brother, Tim by Lynne & Dennis Peterson

Our brothers: Roger Krabbe, Roger Hoffman, and Ron Hoffman,
by Keith & Renee Krabbe

Keith's dad, Ken Krabbe, by Keith & Renee Krabbe

KIRKLAND FOOD PANTRY

GIVEN IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Curly Sanford, my husband, by Elsie Sanford

Jerry Awe, by Judy & Fed Goltermann

Armin Koehler, my dad and Doug Koehler, my brother, by Val Norris

CHOIR MUSIC FUND

GIVEN IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Curly Sanford, my husband, by Elsie Sanford



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Charles Peterson 12/26 Rick Schmidt 12/27
Natalie Norris 12/27/2019 Malcolm Anderberg 12/29
Amanda Wrobel 12/29 Nathan Watson 12/31

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Ben & Amy Blobaum 12/28/2020
David & Laura Block 12/31/2020

Monday 12/25: Christmas Day Communion Service, 9:30am

Tuesday 12/26: Happy Anniversary First Lutheran Church – 150th!

Tuesday 12/26: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

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

Sunday 12/31: Worship Service, 9am.

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- Beau Norris, 11, had a cardiac procedure. He is home, doing well.
- Fallon Mitchell is getting stronger every day!
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially:
 Chuck Schindler, Ina Koehler, James Klus, Jim Hetland, Emmaline Haag, David Sanderson, Susan & Jim Colgan, Mark Bernhardt, and Shannon Daab.
- 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.
- Our church and its activities.
- 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.