



WHERE DO WE
BELONG

Advent Series

Pitching the
Tent

First Lutheran Church Kirkland

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

*Sunday, December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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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.

LBW – green hymnal *Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Order of Service

- *Brief Order for Public Confession P. 56
- *Opening Hymn: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” **LBW 31**
- *Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 57
- *Glory to God in the Highest P. 58
- *Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children’s Sermon

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹When the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from

following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Psalms 89:1-5 (Read responsively by half verse)

p. 256

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

*Alleluia

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*Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel

answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Sermon: **“PITCHING THE TENT”**

*Hymn of the Day: “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

LBW 35

*Apostles' Creed

P. 65

*Sharing of Peace

*Offering

*Create in Me A Clean Heart

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* Prayers of the Church

P. 76

Emmanuel, God with us, through your Word you beckon all people to the light of your love. May your Spirit kindle in your church and particularly this congregation a desire and ability to carry the torch of faithful witness to a world in need of your message of hope and salvation. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Protecting God, grant safe journeys to those who will be traveling in the days ahead. May they be blessed with joyful homecomings. Bring us all to peaceful rest as we find ourselves at home in your presence. Grant that as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord, that we would be filled with a renewed hope for the world you love. Let Christ's love shine through us and illuminate a world in darkness and need. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Holy Lord, give your wisdom and compassion to all who rule and guide the nations of this world. Through their wise leadership may your saving justice be made known. Put an end to violence and destruction in the world and let your peace reign in every corner of the creation. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of healing and wholeness, grant the light of your healing presence to all who are suffering illness, loss, grief, or anxiety this season. Give to all in any kind of need the assurance of your life-giving presence during trials. [We pray particularly for ...] Remind all who are facing troubles that you are God-with-us and that your promises of new life, here and now and in eternity, are trustworthy and true. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

*Lord's Prayer

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*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Closing Hymn: "Oh, Come, Oh Come Emmanuel"

LBW 34

*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude

Church Office: (815)522-3886

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

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

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Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Pr. Deuane

Ushers: Keith Krabbe (Head Usher), Lorraine Krabbe, Tadd Krabbe, and Matt Johnson

Offering Counters: Keith Krabbe & Elda Bruning

Attendance Last Saturday: 12/16: 7

Attendance Sunday, 12/17: 33 adults 9 children

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Joseph Thorstad 12/22/17

Charles Peterson 12/26

Rick Schmidt 12/27

Natalie Norris 12/27/2019

Amanda Wrobel 12/29

Malcolm Anderberg 12/29

Nathan Watson 12/31

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Ben & Amy Blobaum 12/29/2020

David & Laura Block 12/31/2020

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

SOCKS BOX

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



FIRST LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS LIGHT POLE

Thank you to Mike & Sue Sester and Roger & Jean Bauer for finding a new nativity set, as our old one had seen better days. They also decorated the light pole. I hope you will take the time to look at it.



Thank you

The children's Christmas program a couple of weeks ago. It was wonderful. Thank you to all who helped make it a success. It was so cute to see the children sharing Jesus' story.

Thank you!

Joanie Sanderson would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her son, David. He is now in a Rockford rehab after being in the hospital for 61 days. He has a new hip and will be starting physical therapy soon.



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, Jan. 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship Service, 9am.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 7pm.

Monday, 12/25: Join us for **Christmas Day with Communion**, 9am
with special music.

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:

- Lorraine Steinhorst, Gary Steinhorst's mother passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10th. Gary & Peggy Steinhorst
1524 15th St. Baraboo, WI 53913

May the promise of God's resurrection bring peace to the family of Lorraine Steinhorst.

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.