



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*

*Sunday, December 3, 2023*  
*First Sunday of Advent*

*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*  
**First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 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.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who believe that Christ is present in this Sacrament are invited to share in His supper. The inner glasses on the tray are grape juice, the rest of the glasses are wine. Children who have not received Communion instruction should kneel at the altar with their arms crossed upon their chest to receive a Baptismal blessing.

LBW-green hymnal

\*Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

- \*Brief Order for Public Confession p. 56
- \*Opening Hymn: "Joy to the World" **LBW 39**
- \*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie p. 57
- \*This is the Feast p. 60
- \*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.

No Children's Sermon (*Children may go to Sunday School now.*)

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence — <sup>2</sup>as 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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From 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. <sup>5</sup>You 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? <sup>6</sup>We 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. <sup>7</sup>There 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. <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7 (*Read responsively by half verse*) p. 252

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*The Alleluia p. 62

\*Gospel Mark 13:24-37

<sup>24</sup>{Jesus said,} “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And 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. <sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words

will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It 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. <sup>35</sup>Therefore 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 — <sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Sermon:

## **“THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT”**

\*Hymn of the Day: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

**LBW 26**

\*Nicene Creed

p.64

\*Prayers of the Church

p. 65

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.

\*Sharing of Peace

Offering

- \*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful p.66
- \*Offertory Prayer p.67
- \*The Great Thanksgiving p. 68
- \*Words of Institution p. 69
- \*The Lord's Prayer p. 71
- Lamb of God p. 72
- Communion Distribution
- \*Thank the Lord P. 72
- \*Post Communion Prayer
- \*Benediction p. 74

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.

\*Threefold Amen

\*Closing Hymn: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" **LBW 34**

\*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

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

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Louie Mielke

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

Offering Counters: Keith Krabbe & Elda Bruning

Attendance Last Saturday, 11/25:12

Website: [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org)

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Coffee Server: Louie Mielke

Acolyte: Lucas Boyer

Last Sunday, 11/26 34 adults 19 children



**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.

**PLEASE STAY AND HELP TO PUT THE CHRISTMAS TREE UP!**

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!**

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

**ANNIVERSAY 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. 10<sup>th</sup>.

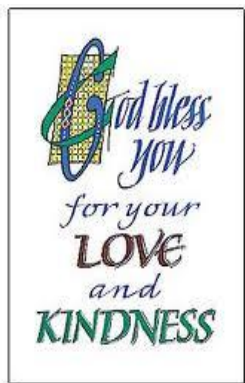
**SOCKS BOX**

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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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. 17<sup>th</sup>.



### **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. 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Booklets will be ready Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>.



### **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](http://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. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **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. 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.