



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

*Saturday, January 13, 2024  
With readings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*

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**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

(with scripture readings for the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany)

**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.

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

**C** O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mt. Sinai, in fire and thunder and cloud, as you gave your Ten Commandments;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** O Jesus, our Lord and God, you made your divine power manifest by changing water into wine, healing the sick, and teaching the people with power and authority;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** O Divine Spirit, when Jesus was baptized, you came upon Him in the form of a dove. Come upon us now, in the speaking of your Word.  
AMEN!

**OPENING SONG: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

**LBW 479**

## **WE CONFESS**

**P** Let us confess our sin and griefs, and hear the comfort of the Lord.

**C** If you revealed only your power and your law to us, O Lord, we would be undone. Like the Israelites who trembled with fear at Mt. Sinai, and like the disciple Peter, who upon seeing your Power over nature, cried out, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”, we too would be reduced to fear and trembling, guilt and hopelessness. We confess that we have not and cannot live up to your righteous and good laws, and that we cannot stand before your almighty power.

## **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

**P** Jesus reveals himself to us most completely, not through laws, commandments, and displays of awesome power, but through lowliness and humility. He came to John the Baptist to be baptized, though he didn't need to at all. By doing so, he showed that he is not ashamed to be associated with sinners. Indeed, he loves sinners, and wants to come into their lives and be their friend. Jesus loves us sinners. In His name, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** And also with you!

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear your people's prayers for peace in our time. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. <sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup>The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup>And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 139:1-9** (Read responsively by half verse)

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### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

<sup>12</sup>"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?

Never! <sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **GOSPEL**

John 1:43-51

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup>Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup>Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **SERMON: “CREATING CHRISTIAN FREEDOM”**

**SONG:** “He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!”

**LBW 501**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

LBW p.85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

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Lord God, you call us into a life of discipleship as one body in Christ; you invite us to follow you in obedience. Refresh us daily with your

word, so we may lead others to you. Thank you for the promise of your Holy Spirit to guide and give us spiritual insight into your true nature. May we continue to build up the body of Christ and serve the world in His holy name.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Tender Father, we pray for unity in the church. May our interactions with one another be full of grace and mercy as we continue your holy work in the world. Let us approach each other with humble and gentle hearts, so all people may come to know you. Help us to build each other up in love just as you have shown us through the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God of wisdom and strength, we pray for our federal, state, local and world leaders. Supply them with strength, wisdom, and integrity, so they seek truth to understand and to resolve differences in peaceful ways. Fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit, and guide us in this life that is filled with so many concerns.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we come to you at all times and in all ways to seek healing and restoration. Lord, grant us mercy in sickness, that we may feel your presence. We pray today for those who are affected by illness [especially for ...], may they be sustained by your promise of everlasting life through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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### **OFFERING**

### **CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

Based on the Song of Simeon, also known as the "Nunc Dimittis" (Luke 2:29-32)

**P** Lord, now you dismiss your servants in peace.

**C** Now, Lord, knowing your promises, we can depart in peace; and one day, we can depart this world in peace.

**P** Our eyes have seen God's salvation!

**C** "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!" We have seen Christ, with the eyes of faith.

**P** He has prepared His salvation in the sight of every people.

**C** By a star, God led Gentiles from the east to His infant son. His salvation is for all people – not just for some.

**P** God's Son is the light of the world, revealing Him to all nations.  
**C** May we too be the light of the world, as Christ has called us.  
**P** He is the glory of God's people Israel.  
**C** We thank God for His chosen people, and for His Messiah, Jesus Christ. And we thank Him for making us, and all who believe in Jesus, His chosen people!  
**P** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**C** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. AMEN.

**CLOSING SONG:** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

**LBW 221**

**THE BENEDICTION**

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
**C** Thanks be to God!

**Church Office:** (815)522-3886

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

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

**Organist:** Nancy Plote

**Saturday Hosts:** Chuck Huey & Lynne Peterson

**Offering Counters:** Angie Springborn & Ashley Boyer

**Attendance Last Saturday, 1/6:** 16 adults **Attendance Sunday, 1/7:** 33 adults, 7 children

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

[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

[secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org)

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Charlee Boehmer 1/12/20    Kay Newberry 1/13  
Chris Mothkovich 1/16    James Haag 1/16  
Lisa Coyle 1/17    Charlotte Haag 1/19/2018

No Anniversaries that are recorded in our church records. If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please share with me as I would like our records to be as complete as possible. Dianna Wittwer



**FLC ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 10:15 A.M.**

The Annual Report Booklets are ready.  
Please pick-up one per family at this time.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Hopefully you have picked up your offering envelopes. If you haven't received envelopes and would like to, please let Dianna know.

Please Congratulate **Richard Wilson** on his retirement!

\*\*\*\*After over 26 years of dedicated service to the residents of Bartlett IL Battalion Chief Richard Wilson will be retiring on January 17th. Richard will continue to work in the fire service as a Deputy Chief with Monroe Center. Richard currently has 34 years in the fire service.\*\*\*



## YOUTH GREATER CALLING RETREAT

February 23-25, 2024

Please consider joining us for the first Great Rivers Mission District Youth Gathering. The event will take place at American Lutheran Church (ALC) in Rantoul Illinois. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Teresa Peters, the NALC Director of Youth and Family Ministries. She will be speaking on the "Greater Calling," of Christians. The goal is to get youth to recognize that they are called by God. Like all Christians, they are called to be disciples of Christ Jesus not because of anything they have done, but because of what Christ did for them personally.

The registration cost for the event is \$60 per person. This includes meals and accommodations.

Please register all youth and volunteers no later than Friday **February 2, 2024**. Registration forms and payment can be sent to St. John Lutheran Church at 5187 Old Marion Rd. Metropolis IL, 62960.

Please see the Narthex bulletin board for more details and registration forms.

### Next Week's Readings:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 [32-35];

Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, 1/14: Join us after the service for coffee and Adult Forum in Fellowship Hall! Newsletter items due today.

Tuesday 1/16: Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution., 12-2pm.  
Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 1/17: On-line Bible Study resumes, 7pm.

Saturday 1/20: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 1/21: Communion Service with Sunday School, 9am.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following people that are near and dear to our hearts:

- **Shannon Daab**, Mark Boehmer's mother -in-law passed away on Thursday morning.
- **Phillip Montgomery** passed away on Friday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Phil was a very active Lion's Club member.
- May the promise of God's resurrection bring peace to the family and friends of Shannon Daab and Phil Montgomery.

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

- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially:

James Klus

Emmaline Haag

David Sanderson

Susan & Jim Colgan

Mark Bernhardt

Fallon Mitchell

- 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.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- 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.