



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

*Sunday, February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshipping 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 and water, 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 **WOV** – Blue hymnal *Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and the Announcements

Order of Service

- *Brief Order for Public Confession P. 77
- *Opening Hymn: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” **LBW 543**
- *Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 78
- *This Is the Feast P. 81
- *Prayer of the Day

Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Children may follow Sue Peterson to Sunday School.)

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he

blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147:1-12 (Read responsively by whole verse)

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I

discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

*Alleluia

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*Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

²⁹Immediately {Jesus} left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sermon: "NEVER-ENDING CREATIVITY"

*Hymn of the Day: "I Love to Tell the Story"

LBW 390

*Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the Church

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Tender Lord of Mercy, you know our deepest thoughts and fears that sometimes get in the way of spending time with you; help us to remember that you alone can sustain us through whatever we are facing. Help us remember that it is through our times of trial where we can learn to trust you and be a witness to your healing power. We pray that the church would be a beacon of hope to the world with all its concerns.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, we don't always seek you first in times of gratitude, trouble, or counsel. We ask today that we would be ever mindful that you are always here for us. We also pray for

those who don't know you; may we be a light of hope to them through our prayers, words, and deeds. We ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that we may know what we are to pray at all times and in all situations.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we know that there are countless people who live among us that feel lonely or uncared for in this world. We pray, as your church, that we would intentionally work to find them through our ministries. Let us be your hands and feet in the world, to serve others as you would have us do.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for those who are sick, hospitalized, preparing for surgery, or suffering in any way [especially ...] that they would be consoled and strengthened to endure through their faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We also pray for their loved ones that they find comfort through you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Sharing of Peace

Offering

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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*Offertory Prayer

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*Great Thanksgiving

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*Holy, Holy

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*Words of Institution

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*Lord's Prayer

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Lamb of God

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Communion Distribution

*Thank the Lord

P. 92

*Post Communion Prayer

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*Benediction & Threefold Amen

*Closing Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

LBW 221

*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

***Congregation: 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: Bob Coyle
Ushers: Ryan Block (Head Usher), Jennifer & Keegan Block and Matt Johnson
Offering Counters: Jo Boehmer and Mary Loomis
Attendance Last Saturday, 1/27: 12

Website: www.kirklandflc.org
pastor@kirklandflc.org
secretary@kirklandflc.org
Coffee Server: Louie Mielke & Jean Bauer
Acolyte: David Thorstad
Last Sunday, 1/28: 51 adults, 10 children

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Carolyn Suhr 2/2 Josie Brykowski 2/3 Isabella Haag 2/4/19
Elaine Mitchell 2/6 Oscar Swan 2/10 Jim Suhr 2/10
Pastor Thomas Thorstad 2/12

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Harold & Alice Hintzsche 2/1/59
Ray & Connie Schauer 2/6/14



WE BELONG
"I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME"

GET EXCITED for the first-ever NALC Continental Youth Gathering!

Your youth group BELONGS at the first-ever NALC Continental Youth Gathering! We desire for all NALC youth, grades 6-12, and their adult leaders, to join us **July 1-4, 2024**, in Boerne, Texas! Registration deadline is April 15, 2024. See the bulletin board for more details.

If you have any questions, please email me at tpeters@thenalc.org.

Blessings,

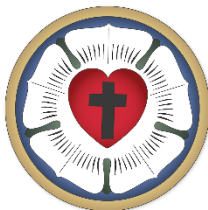
Teresa Peters

NALC Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish

A yoked ministry of

St John's Lutheran Church, Creston
St Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Pastor and Congregation:

It is with joy and thanks to God that Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish invites you to the service of Ordination to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament and to the Office of Pastor for

Terese Whitten

Sunday, February 18th, 2024 at 4:00 PM

St Paul Lutheran Church

114 South 5th Street

Oregon, IL 61061

A meal will follow the service in the St Paul Fellowship Hall
Please RSVP to 815-732-2367 or to splc61061@gmail.com by

February 8th, 2024.

Clergy: Process and vest in red. Please arrive by 3:30 PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 2/4: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee.

Adult Forum, 10:15am.

Tuesday 2/6: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 2/7: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 2/10: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 2/11: Worship Service, 9am with Sunday School to follow.

Ash Wednesday 2/14: Service with Imposition of ashes, 6:30pm

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Roger Bauer (back issues)

Those anticipating surgery

- 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.

Next Week's Readings:

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6;

Mark 9:2-9