



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

*Sunday, April 28, 2024*  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2024**

**WELCOME!** We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.

LBW - green hymnal \*Please stand as able.

Prelude

Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

\*Brief Order for Public Confession P. 56

\*Opening Hymn: “Beautiful Savior” **LBW 518**

\*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 57

\*The Glory to God in the Highest P. 58

\*Prayer of the Day

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children’s Sermon

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his

life is taken away from the earth.”<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”<sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”<sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.<sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalms 150 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

P.289

Second Reading

1 John 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In 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. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

\*The Alleluia

P. 62

\*Gospel

John 15:1-8

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Sermon: **GIDEON'S SPECIAL PREACHING -**  
**MIKE LOWERY**

\*Hymn of the Day: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**LBW 315**

\*Apostle's Creed

P. 65

\*Sharing of Peace

Offering

\*Create in Me A Clean Heart

P. 75

\*Prayers of the Church

P. 75

Holy God, through your son, Jesus, we abide in you. Help us to bear fruit as we seek to serve our neighbor. Grant us courage and strength so when we are pruned by the vinedresser, we not only glorify your Son, but bear even more fruit. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, who has made it possible for us to be together with you.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Eternal Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all that exists. Bring joy to families who are welcoming babies into their lives, so they might cherish every moment together. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, assuring them of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the beauty of your creation: for budding trees and blooming flowers, for a renewal of life on this planet. May we be good stewards of all the resources you have given, especially water, land, and food. May our care for the world you created be a sign of our devotion to you.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord of life, you are the source of all healing and rest. Grant your healing mercy to be with all those who struggle with pain or suffering. Surround them with your comfort. Lord, bring hope to the hopeless and provide for the needs of your people each day. [We pray especially for ... ]

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

\*Lord's Prayer

P. 76

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

\*Closing Hymn: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

LBW 259

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

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

\*Postlude

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Pianist: Jill Vodden

Coffee Server: Jean Bauer & Louie Mielke

Lay Reader: Bob Coyle

Ushers: Ryan Block (Head usher), Jen Block and Keegan Marshall

Offering Counters: Mary Loomis & Ashley Boyer

### **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!**

Ashley Mielke 4/28    Mark Brykowski 4/29    Lynne Peterson 5/4

### **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!**

Mark & Cindy Stoll 5/25/15

Brian & Ashley Mielke 5/27/13

### **CONGRATULATIONS TAYLOR HAAG**

Taylor Haag will be graduating with honors on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from North Central College, Naperville, IL. with a Journalism and Communications degree. Taylor is the daughter of James & Sara Haag and granddaughter of Russ & Judy Laceyfield.



### **FAREWELL POTLUCK FOR PASTOR TOM & FAMILY**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have a farewell potluck after the service. BBQ pulled pork sandwiches will be the main dish. Please sign-up in the narthex. See Jean Bauer with any questions.



### **APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS**

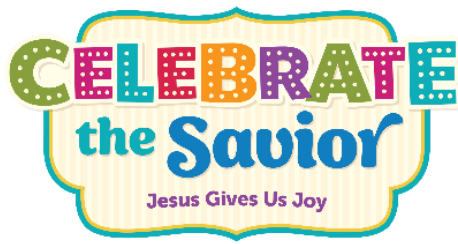
A reminder to plant the hollyhock seeds that you received in memory of Ina Koehler. The instructions are on the back of the envelope.

### **SPRING IS HERE!**

It's time to do some yard work around the church again. We are in need of two bags of moisture control potting soil, and 5 bags of Scotts topsoil Peat moss. If you like to donate, please contact Susan Wilson (224) 629 0016.

### **NALC GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT RETREAT**

The retreat will be in Magnolia, IL on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. RSVP to Dianna or Richard by **MAY 6 TH.** The cost is \$175. per person and includes lodging and 3 meals. Pastor Brad Hales will be the keynote speaker. Please see the Narthex bulletin board for more information.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The date has been set for VBS - Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21. The time hasn't been set yet. If you are willing to help in any way, Co-coordinators, Val Norris, and Denise Norris would appreciate it. They are especially looking for Jr high to high school age or those young at heart to help. More information will be provided soon.



### KIRKLAND FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES A DONATION

The Food Pantry received a \$5000.00 donation from the Kirkland Lion's Club at their monthly meeting on Thursday. John Royalty received the check from Lion's Treasurer, Ryan Block. This was more than half of the proceeds from the recent meat raffle held in March. We have many FLC members that are members of the Lion's Club as well.

Sunday 4/28: Join us after the service for coffee.

Monday 4/29: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 4/30: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 5/1: Happy May Day!

Saturday 5/4: NO Service this week.

Sunday 5/5: Communion Service with Sunday School.

**Farewell potluck for Pastor Tom and family** to follow service.



### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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:

Richard Krabbe

Bill Byers

Matt Johnson

James Klus

Emmaline Haag

David Sanderson

Michelle Bruning

Nathan Wrobel

- 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 affected by natural disasters.
- 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:**

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-1