

## First St. John Lutheran Church

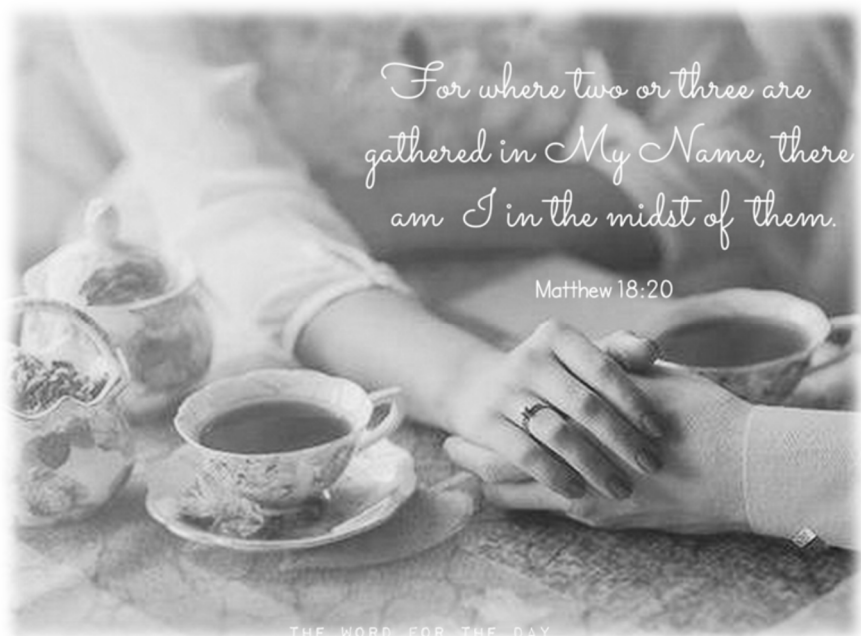
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director  
Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist  
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*Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community*

**September 6, 2020**

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**14th Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Please review some of our reopening guidelines below.

Masks must be worn. We have some available to take if you don't have one. Some are cloth masks and can be taken home to wash and reuse. There are also disposable masks.

Please do not congregate in the Narthex (entrance area) either as you arrive or leave.

To minimize direct contact, we will use the outside aisles only for entry and exit. The center aisle will be used for communion, special needs, or emergency exit.

Ushers will fill the pews from the front to the back of the church and dismiss from the back to the front. Please follow their directions. We are sorry everyone cannot have their usual seat.

We will be able to have corporate singing and verbal liturgy responses, as long as we continue to wear our masks. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater will still provide music. Liturgy and lessons will be projected on the screen. The service will be recorded and published to the website. Future plans are to "live stream" the service.

Elders will wear gloves and hand the bulletin to you when you are seated. Please do not leave your bulletin in the pew when you exit; take it home or put it in the recycling bin at the front door.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take the left set of steps down. The ladies room is at one end of the hallway, and the men's room is at the other. Return to the Narthex using the opposite set of stairs. Please, one person only in the restroom area.

Diaper Changing: A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, please call the church office during the week to check on availability.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell

Jacob Henry

**Opening Hymn**    *“Shall We Gather at the River”*  
(sung by Annette Slater)

### **Thanksgiving For Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving begins.*

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The water is poured into the baptismal font.*

P: Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.  
**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.  
**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.  
**We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.**

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.  
**We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.**

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.**

### **Baptismal Hymn – We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus**

(sung by Annette Slater)

*We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;  
That as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.  
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,  
We will all be reunited, for he lives.*

*In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,  
In the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,  
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;  
In the losing and the winning we hold fast.*

*Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;  
As it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again  
In a song that has no ending. . . . Amen.*

### **Invocation**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Announcements**

#### **FIRST READING: Romans 13:8-14**

*Although Paul insists we are reconciled to God through faith rather than works of the law, he encourages Christians to practice God’s law of love while we wait for the salvation to come.*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet";

and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

#### **PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40**

*I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

**<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Make me go in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

**<sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;  
give me life in your ways.

**<sup>38</sup>Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which you make to those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach, which I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

**<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your commandments;  
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Gospel Acclamation** *(sung by Annette Slater)*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
Open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
Where love can grow and peace is understood. (Repeat)*

#### **Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 18.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

*Jesus has said that God's concern for every individual is like a shepherd who will leave the entire herd to look for one lost sheep. Now, he says, the church should reach out to and welcome members who sin.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

#### **Gospel Response (Spoken)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **MESSAGE**

Message Song "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*(sung by Annette Slater)*

Pastor Rayl

#### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

P: Lord, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

## The Offering

*(As you exit, please place your offering in the wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)*

## Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## Invitation to Communion

P: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
**Our Lord's body and blood, let us take together.**

**Communion Hymn** - During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be sung by the soloist.

*"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"  
"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"*

## The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*



## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap	shampoo, child	toothbrush, child
paper towels	laundry soap	tampons
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	sanitary pads
tissues	body lotion	band aids
deodorant	body soap	toothpaste, adult
shampoo, adult	toothbrush, adult	toothpaste, child
disposable razors		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



## Here Among Us

What would you do if Jesus walked into your worship space today?

Well, Jesus is already here! He says so: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." It takes "two or three" to really experience Jesus' presence. In other words, our relationship with Jesus is much more than a personal friendship, a private matter between Jesus and one individual. Jesus is certainly present with each one of us at all times, but Jesus' presence in the gathered community allows each of us to experience that presence in the company of others who seek to follow and serve faithfully. Jesus is not an identical copy of me. Jesus is here in the face of brothers and sisters in Christ. Some of these sisters and brothers think and feel and act just as I do. Some are very different from me.

When two or three are gathered in the name of Christ in the Christian assembly, Jesus is there, despite our differences. Jesus continues to take on flesh and blood in the community of faith. This worshipping assembly is where we experience most fully the presence of God, as the community meets around Christ in word and sacrament--circling around the table, the font, the book.

Personal differences and communal squabbles should not get in the way of the union of our sacramental community. Not everyone is going to agree about everything all the time; that is just part of the nature of human community. The "two or three" gathered in Christ's name will include people who will hear and see matters quite differently than we do. But our differences open the way for a deeper reconciliation that can express most adequately the completeness of Jesus' presence in this community. Jesus is among us this day. No wonder we have a reason to celebrate!