

## First St. John Lutheran Church

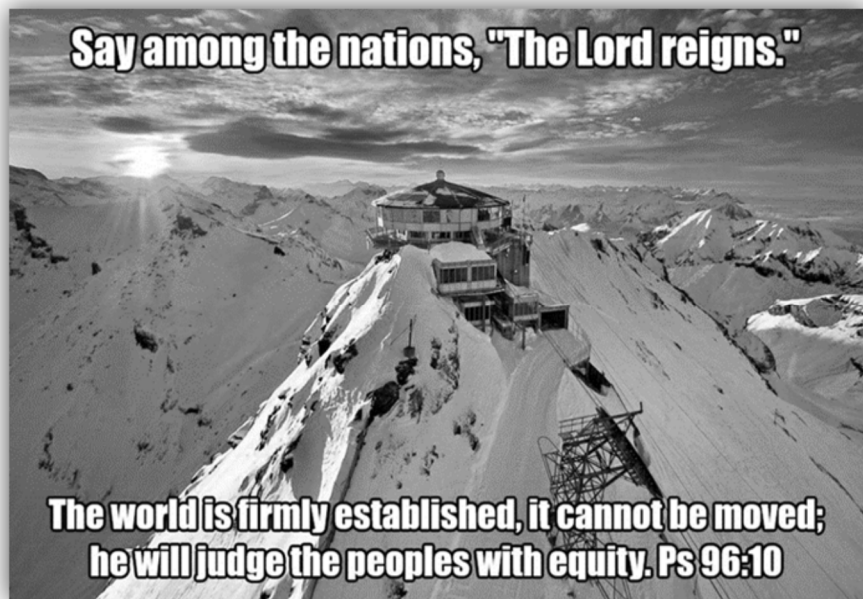
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director  
Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist  
Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



*Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community*

October 18, 2020

**October 18, 2020**

**20<sup>th</sup> 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 have corporate singing and verbal liturgy responses, as long as we keep our masks on. 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. You can get a bulletin at the check-in table when you walk in. 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.

There is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot for your offering.

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 (Please stand) Dr. Pattin

Opening Hymn "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" v. 1, 2, & 5  
(led by Annette Slater)

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

C: **in your great compassion, blot out our offenses.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P: God of grace, we confess to you the ways in which we have chosen death rather than life: by trusting in ourselves rather than you; by failing to follow your call; by ignoring the cries of the poor; by misusing your creation; by seeking security through possessions; by neglecting to give thanks for all your gifts; by allowing violence rather than working for peace. Renew your salvation within us, and hold us in your generous spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In great mercy, God abolished death and brought life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you that you are forgiven by the grace of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a new life.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

### Doxology Response (led by Annette Slater)

*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.*

### The Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

### Announcements

#### PSALM: Psalm 96:1-13

*Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)*

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

**<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD and bless his name;**

**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup>Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!**

**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (please stand)** (led 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 22.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

*After Jesus comes to Jerusalem and begins teaching in the temple, the religious leaders try to trap him with trick questions. The first question tries to force him to make an arbitrary choice between devotion to religion or politics.*

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

**Gospel Response (Spoken)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON Pastor Rayl  
Sermon Hymn "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"  
(led by Annette Slater)  
(Please stand)

**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** (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Lord, in your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

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

**Offertory Music**

Dr. Pattin

(Please stand)

**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.

C: **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **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.

**C: Our Lord's body and blood, let us take together.**

*(Please be seated)*

### 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.*

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

**Communion Hymns** - During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be led by the Annette:

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*  
*"Now We Join in Celebration"*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

### The Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

P: Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now  
and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

*“Day By Day”*

*(led by Annette Slater)*

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Bob & Sherrie Haar

**HYMN LEADER**

Annette Slater

**SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

# Fall Gatherings

All are welcome to join  
NWOS Staff and Bishop Daniel  
for virtual fellowship and conversation about  
what it means to be On the Way together!

**Oct 15 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Oct 29 @ 7:30 a.m.**

**Nov 5 @ 9:00 p.m.**

More info: [nwos-elca.org](http://nwos-elca.org)



October 18, 2020

20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## God's Due

What are "God's things?" Are they spiritual rather than material? Are they religious rather than secular? Do they belong to the Sunday world rather than the Monday world?

In today's gospel Jesus is confronted with a question meant to trap him. "Is it lawful to pay taxes . . . or not?" hardly sounds like a trick question to us. But in Jesus' world taxes supported a foreign occupation, and so this question has political overtones. "Jesus, are you a collaborator with the Romans (or are you a revolutionary)?"

Jesus' answer cleverly avoids the trap while shifting the focus to its proper object: "Give to God the things that are God's." Jesus answers a thorny question by reminding us that some things matter more than others. The emperor's claims, as weighty as they may be, are not the ultimate demand upon us. Caesar's authority goes no further than his face on a coin. "The things that are God's" know no limits! The coin, the emperor, the empire--*all* are God's!

Giving God what belongs to God cannot be calculated by a formula or worked out as a percentage. God's due includes everything--all that I have, all that I am. It includes my possessions, my money, my skills, my personality, my relationships, my history, and my future. All of it is God's. It is not that God is greedy. The bottom line is that, simply, God is God. And that makes us stewards. All that we have, all that we are, all that has been entrusted to our care, is evidence of God's lavish and extravagant generosity. We offer these good gifts--our lives and our possessions--as the hymn of praise we sing to the God who holds the universe.