

First St. John Lutheran Church

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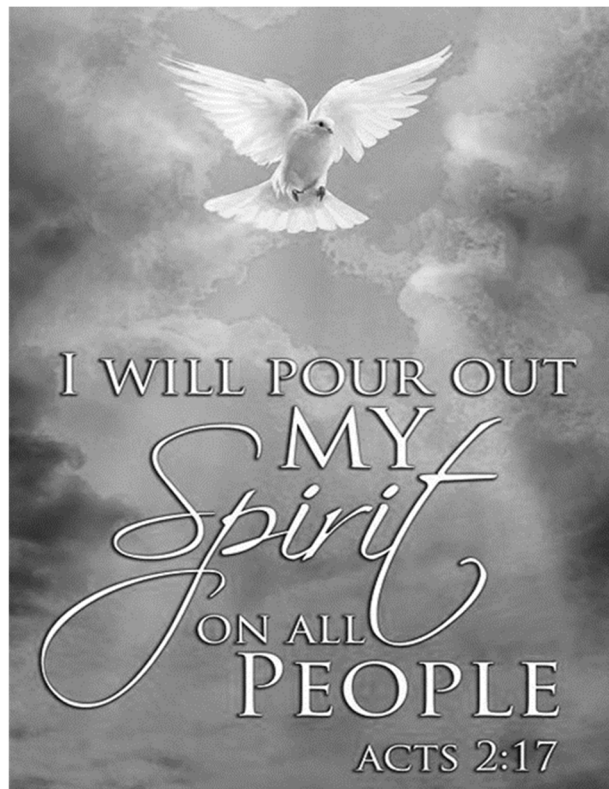
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



May 23, 2021

Day of Pentecost

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

We can now sing the hymns and speak the congregational responses behind our masks. Annette Slater will lead the hymns. The service will be recorded and published to the website. We are now live streaming the service on our church website, www.firststjohn.com

Elders will hand out the bulletins. 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.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

May 23, 2021 - 10:15 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:15 am

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song “*Shout to the Lord*” (Praise Singers)

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. In time, the festival came to celebrate the covenant made at Mount Sinai. Still later, Luke associated the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with Pentecost as the fiftieth day after the resurrection, a new covenant sealed in the body and blood of Christ.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:22-27

In this text, Paul speaks of the Spirit's presence in the cosmos. The entire creation groans in hope and testifies to what each Christian knows: the Spirit is the principle of new life gathering all into the harvest of hope.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (led by Annette)

*Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 15.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

When speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" and described the difference the Spirit would make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Spirit of Gentleness"

Pastor Rayl

No. 396

(led by Annette)

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism for Confirmation

L: These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

(As their names are read, each confirmand comes forward.)

P: Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from God's Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as you were admonished to "let your light so shine before others that seeing your good works they would give glory to your Father in heaven."

P: Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? *(Each Confirmand replies: I do.)*

(Confirmands reply to each question as a group)

P: Do you believe in God, the Father?

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

P: Do you believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R: *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.*

P: Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

R: *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.*

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Holy Communion, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

(As their names are spoken, each answers in turn.)

R: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these young persons your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

(As their names are spoken, each in turn kneels as their Confirmation Bible verse is read. Family members are invited to come forward; and then the pastor lays both hands on each confirmand's head.)

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in *(name)* the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower him/her in *his/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him /her* to everlasting life.

R: *Amen.*

(As each arises, the pastor greets them:

P: Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.)

(After everyone has returned to their places the service continues.)

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

Musical Offertory

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

P: 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.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

The Communion (distribution will be continuous)

(PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AS GIVEN BY THE PASTOR FOR CONFIRMANDS AND FAMILIES TO COME FORWARD.)

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

“Bread of Life from Heaven” No. 474
“Now We Join in Celebration” No. 462

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

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

C: Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” No. 545
(led by Annette)

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

CONFIRMATION ASSISTANT

Pam Beavers



CONFIRMATION CLASS of 2021

Brody Lee Barton

Son of Jeff and Lisa Barton

Sean Donald Beavers, Jr.

Son of Sean Beavers and Sarah Beavers

Ian Edward DeWitt

Son of Matthew DeWitt and Laura DeWitt

Natalie Rose Miller

Daughter of Matthew and Jessica Miller

Jenna Marie Pawlaczyk

Daughter of Dennis and Sarah Pawlaczyk

Morgan Anne Schweizer

Daughter of Michael and Traci Schweizer

Cieara Marie Vartorella

Daughter of Michael and Laura Vartorella

Kieara Marie Vartorella

Daughter of Michael and Laura Vartorella

Carter Ryan Walendzak

Son of Dennis and Christine Walendzak

May 23, 2021

DAY OF PENTECOST

Advocate for Truth

Does truth need an advocate? Isn't truth self-evident? Not really. Think of advances that came only after someone discovered a kernel of truth and advocated it to the world. It happened with Galileo and the solar system, Louis Pasteur and pasteurization, and other truths now considered self-evident.

The advocate for the truth of God is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit calls people to God's truth in Jesus, builds up Christians in love for others, and keeps the church faithful to Christ. The Spirit stirs faith in infant hearts through baptismal washing and raises the spiritually dead through the gospel of forgiveness. The Advocate turns our face toward peace, love, faith, joy, patience, and hope that endures.

Just as Jesus promised, the Spirit is our advocate, healing sick hearts, breathing daily life into believers, and enlivening the church, which would die without this nurture. The church, with Christ as its foundation, witnesses to the Spirit's presence and activity in the world.

The church, Christ's body in the world, is God's advocate for truth, peace, and justice. The Holy Advocate intercedes when our tongues get twisted, and draws out our witness for peace and justice when the poor and downtrodden cannot speak for themselves.

The Spirit resonates through the millions of Christians in Africa where AIDS threatens. It wraps millions of Asian Christians in God's truth to face challenges and persecution in a populous region. The Holy Advocate sustains the Middle Eastern church and millions of Central and South American Christians in their afflictions. The Comforter teaches humility to European and North American Christians and encourages them to heed calls for help from sisters and brothers around the world. The Advocate leads Christ's body, the whole church, to pursue peace and justice for the poor and oppressed in every land.