

First St. John Lutheran Church

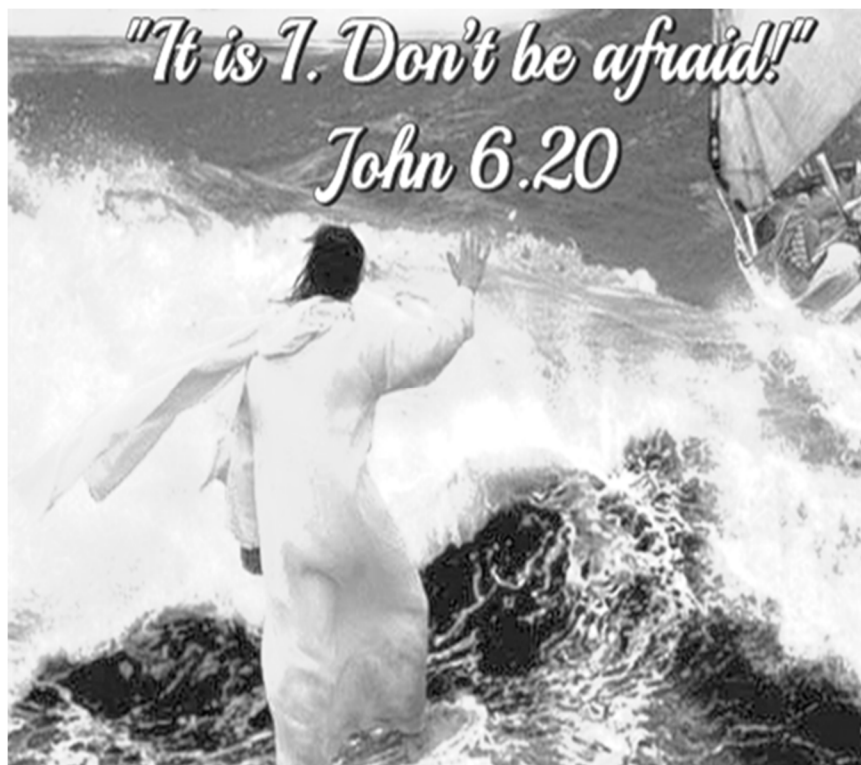
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director
Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

July 25, 2021

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Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

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

If you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear masks. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. 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.

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "Cornerstone" Praise Singers

Confession and Forgiveness (*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*)

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

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: God, our provider, help us.

C: It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

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. Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

PSALM: Psalm 145:10-18

You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature. (Ps. 145:17)

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,**

¹²to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Our kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.**

¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (*led by Laurie*)

*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 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"

⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Break Now the Bread of Life"

Pastor Rayl
No. 515
(led by Laurie)

(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.

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

Laurie Crouse

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts;
ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we
have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the
one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: your mercy is great.

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.

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, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" No. 517
(led by Laurie)

*(Please remain seated for a brief
mid-year informational meeting.)*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

HYMN LEADER

Laurie Crouse

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

July 25, 2021

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

I AM

Sometimes the love of Jesus comes to us as a gift of an abundant meal. Other times this love rises above a stormy sea, calling to us with an ancient name: I am.

The disciples have just had an amazing day. Jesus has fed thousands of hungry people with mere scraps; and not just fed them a few crumbs but an all-you-can-eat feast with more leftovers than Thanksgiving dinner at Grandma's house. After this incredible day, the disciples leave Jesus to retreat. They're rowing to Capernaum when a strong wind comes up, and three or four miles out to sea they see Jesus walking toward them on the rough waters. They're understandably terrified!

When he approaches, Jesus speaks, but not just as a man identifying himself--he utters the name of God: I am. Our Bible translation reads a little differently: "It is I; do not be afraid" (John 6:20), but when the disciples heard Jesus speak to them, his words would have reminded them of the other times God had used these words. God uses the name "I am" many places in the Bible. We first hear it when Moses asks how to address God; God answers, "I am who I am" (Ex. 3:14).

We can feel for those disciples. They think they've had a great day of ministry together, think they've got a sweet deal, working for this Jesus, assisting at the miraculous feeding of the 5,000. But then they're fearful and stunned by the rough water, and even more, by Jesus walking on it and speaking as the voice of God. This kind of roller coaster of faith often happens to us, too. At those times of our lives when we experience both mountaintop joys and rough waters, it is good to know that God is. "I am," Jesus says, "Do not be afraid."