

First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
419-691-7222

office@firststjohn.com

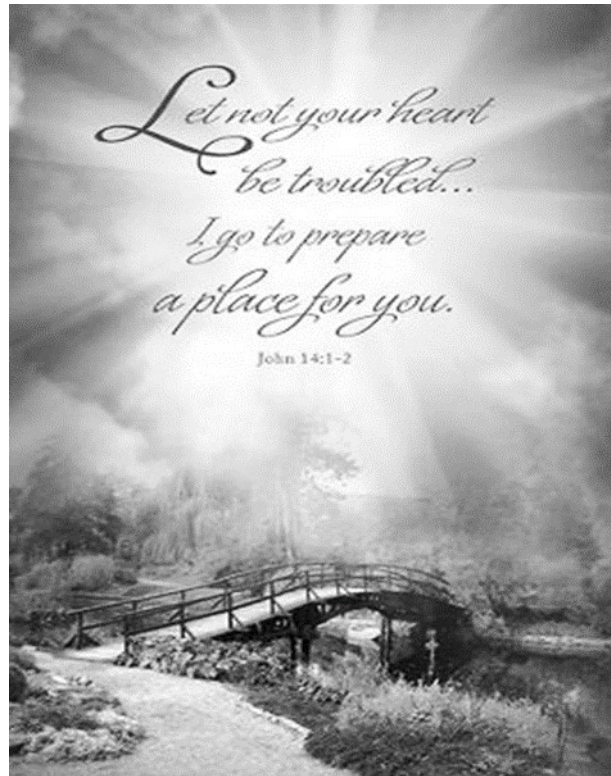
www.firststjohn.com

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

August 29, 2021

August 29, 2021

14th 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

Mary Mortemore

Opening Song "O Day of Rest and Gladness"

No. 521
(led by Annette)

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

C: **Amen.**

L: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the
mouths of infants and children;

C: **you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence
the foe and avenger.**

L: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the
moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

C: **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

L: Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and
honor you crown them.

C: **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

L: All flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of
the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the
paths of the sea.

C: **O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the
earth!**

L: God of majesty, amid the grandeur of your creation you sought
us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory
and honor, giving us dominion over your works. Enable us so to
care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *"This Is My Father's World"* No. 824

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and
wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us
from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from
within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Announcements

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the Law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. According to Moses, the people are to obey the Law and neither add to nor subtract from it.

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

³ who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

⁴ **in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

⁵ who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

This letter was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and act on what they hear.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(led by Annette)*

*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.*

Gospel Acclamation

L: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 14.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Gospel Response

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn

“You Are the Way”

Pastor Rayl (video)
No. 758
(led by Annette)

(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.

(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.)*

Musical Offertory

Mary Mortemore

Offering Prayer

L: 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.

Intercessory Prayer

L: 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

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and

journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

No. 537

(led by Annette)

Postlude

Mary Mortemore

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

August 29, 2021

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Never-Ending Story

In the Easter season one year a young boy asked his mother, "How does the story end?" Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story; he rose from the dead. Jesus' story continued when he appeared to his friends, more than once. So, how did the story end?

The boy's mother thought a minute and answered, "Well, in a way, the story is still going on. You and I are part of it. So is everyone at church."

Did you hear? You and I are part of it. The mother's response points to the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit. How do we get inside the story? How do we become actors in it, people who continue the story of love and mercy begun by Jesus?

As the Gospel of John says again and again, it is not enough to look at what God does from the outside. We can only know the truth when it dwells in us; we can only know life when we have entered into it. The Spirit leads us to the truth. The Spirit draws us into the mutual love of Jesus and God the Father so that we can be one as Jesus and the Father are one. The Spirit makes possible our creative role in the story that continues to unfold chapter by chapter.

We miss the point, though, if we put the story of Jesus' resurrection and then the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the past, if we think that we are two millennia away from the birthing work of the Spirit. The Spirit continues to create the church by dwelling in believers and drawing us into the life of God. Thanks to the Spirit, the church is born anew today!