

## First St. John Lutheran Church

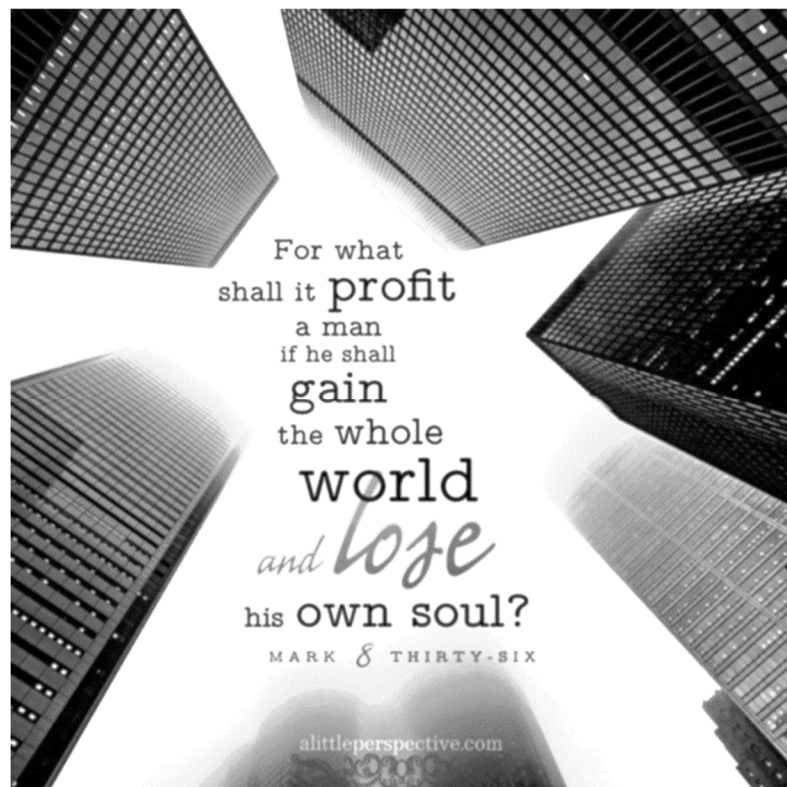
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



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

**September 12, 2021 - 10:30 am**

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**16th Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / Catechism
10:30 am	Late Worship

Covid Guidelines: If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. We have some available near the entryway if you don't have one.

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Offering: 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.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: Orientation today is at 9:15 am in the church. Classes will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

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—10:30 am**

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

**Welcome to Worship**

Pastor Rayl

Opening Song      *“Ten Thousand Reasons”*      Praise Singers

**Opening Dialog**

P: The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

**C: One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

P: Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

**C: their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends of the world,**

P: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the  
simple.

**C: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to  
the eyes.**

P: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine  
gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

P: By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: Who can detect one’s own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

P: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them  
not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.

**C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my  
redeemer.**

P: Let us pray.

P: Faithful God, you sent your incarnate Word as the sun of justice  
to shine upon all the world. Open our eyes to see your gracious  
hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation,  
we may learn to serve you with gladness, for the sake of him  
through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Installation of J.A.M. Teachers and Staff**

P: Dear friends, God has established the church as the instrument  
through which His will and purpose for man may find  
completion. The church does not exist for itself, but for our  
Lord. Before his ascension, our Lord commissioned his  
followers with these words: “All authority in heaven and on  
earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples  
of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey  
everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you  
always, to the very end of the age.”

You have been called to the ministry of teaching and  
administering the Jesus And Me Sunday School of First St.  
John Lutheran Church. This task carries important  
responsibilities. You have been entrusted with the gospel. It is  
your duty to clearly make known the Holy Scriptures so those  
who are entrusted to your care will be led into a knowledge of  
redemption through faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. You need  
not fear; God has promised to be with you in the person of the  
Holy Spirit who will provide for your every need. Therefore,  
honestly answer the following questions before God and in the  
presence of this congregation:

Are you willing to accept this responsibility to which God has  
called you? Will you earnestly study the Word of God so you  
might accurately teach it to others? Will you faithfully instruct  
those entrusted to your care in the Word of God, giving freely of  
your heart, mind, time, and talent so that you may fulfill your  
duties to the best of your ability? Will you be a proper role  
model for those observing your behavior, teaching not just with  
words, but with actions?

If so, answer: **I WILL, WITH GOD BEING MY HELPER.**

P: *(to the congregation)*

Members of the Body of Christ, we celebrate the presence of God as we recognize God's call, received by these members of our fellowship to the direction and teaching of our Sunday School. They come in a spirit of devotion to offer themselves to God for this service, and so it is our obligation to support them by our encouragement and prayers, that they may be empowered for this calling with faithfulness to the glory of God.

As members of First St. John Lutheran Church will you promise your faithful encouragement and prayerful support in the home and the church?

If so, answer: **WE WILL.**

P: To the Lord who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*This reading gives good advice to sufferers: trust in God even (and especially) in the midst of pain. The servant remains faithful throughout trials, knowing that God is with and for the sufferer in the midst of pain.*

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens--  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation** *(sing twice)*

*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**

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 8.

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

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

*In this story Peter is the first human being to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

### Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

Pastor Rayl

No. 754

*(Please stand)*

### Day School Kids Sing

*"Good Morning, Lord"*

*"Thank You, Lord"*

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

### Children's Message

Pastor Rayl

#### Installation of Day School Staff and Teachers

P: For the marvels of your creation,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: For the opportunity to explore and study, grow and learn,

**C: we praise you, God.**

P: For those who guide us: teachers, helpers, administrators and parents,

**C: we praise you, God.**

P: Teach us your ways and guide us in your paths, for you are the creator of all that is, seen and unseen.

**C: Great and loving God, give us your blessing now.**

*(Day School staff and teachers are introduced and come forward for their installation.)*

P: As we continue to welcome children by providing for their needs,

**Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.**

P: As we nurture children so they can develop into persons you intend them to be.

**Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.**

P: As we send children on their way with your love and blessings,

**Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.**

P: As we are empowered to carry out this ministry,

**Staff: Thank you, Lord Jesus!**

P: We gather to give thanks for the gifts you have given to our Day School ministry.

**C: We celebrate one another's gifts.**

P: Let us pray. We rejoice in our ministry together and give thanks for all who work to make our Day School ministry a special place for children. Today we say thank you for giving us loving partners with our congregation who care for children, who teach children, who learn with children, and who are examples of your love to children. We celebrate the joy of learning and growing at our First St. John Lutheran Day School.

**P: Amen.**

#### Blessing of the Backpacks

P: Today we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here.

P: Work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be read and shared, and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks. Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that students may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent the work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our lives, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

*Let us pray:*

P: Gracious God, we lift these students to you today. They stand here ready to receive your blessings, and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them. Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

P: We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing.

May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus, whom we seek to follow day by day.

**C: 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**      "A Welcome Place"      Joel Raney

**Offering Prayer**

P: God of harvest, to your table we bring wine and bread and gifts from the labor of our hands.

**C: Receive the offering of our lives, and feed us with your living bread from heaven, that we may serve others in your name, through Christ our Lord. 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.

**Remembrance of Twenty Years**

**Blessing**

P: Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, equipped by God for every good work.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn      "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Postlude

No. 781

Dr. Pattin

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

**ELDERS**

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

**SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

**JESUS AND ME (JAM) SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF**

Sue Ann Rogers    3-Year Olds & Preschool

Frank Meyers     Adult Sunday School

**Grade School Classes**

Debbie Ladd

Darlene Paul

Joyce Yard

**DAY SCHOOL STAFF**

Andrea Buckley    Administrator

Michelle Swank    Kindergarden Teacher

Lexie Zunk        Kindergarden Aide

Jennifer Galyas    Teacher, 3-Year Olds, M-F

Dawn Irelan        Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF

Holly Harnard     Teacher, 3-Year Olds, TTH

Jill Deneau        Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF

Bonnie Petroff     Teacher, 4-Year Olds, M-F

Angel Brown       4-Year Olds, M-F Aide

Marie Ivan         Aide—All Preschool Classes

Shela Stringham   Day School Cook

*September 12, 2021*

*16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

**To Carry a Cross**

As the scene opens, Jesus is hitting the road with his disciples. On the way he generates a little travel conversation: "Who do people say that I am?" The responses offered by the disciples are dramatic, setting the stage for a majestic truth. No doubt Peter is feeling pleased with himself for giving the right answer: "You are the Messiah."

Suddenly the mood changes. Jesus begins talking about the suffering ahead, complete with a list of the rejections he'll undergo and the mysterious twist of "rising again" after his death. If Peter provides a good barometer for the disciples' feelings, the group is shocked and unwilling to accept this strange fate that belongs to the Son of Man. Expectations crumble as Jesus lays out the harsh facts of who the Messiah really is.

Perhaps we would like to make God into something less complicated than what God is. Perhaps we take salvation lightly or wish that it were less costly. No matter how we would like to construct our own version of a messiah, Jesus' difficult teachings are at the heart of his identity as savior: he is a cross-carrier. More difficult still, his followers must become cross-carriers as well.

To carry a cross doesn't always mean receiving the role of a martyr or minister or spiritual hero. Each of us is equipped with fitting gifts. Each of us is invited to undergo a first death through baptism, one step of the road that Jesus walked. Together we learn how to carry our crosses by seeking to know and to imitate Christ, with the certainty that we don't shoulder any burden alone. And the most outrageous news lies in the mysterious twist at the end: just as we share in the bearing of the cross, so will we also share in the resurrection.