

## First St. John Lutheran Church

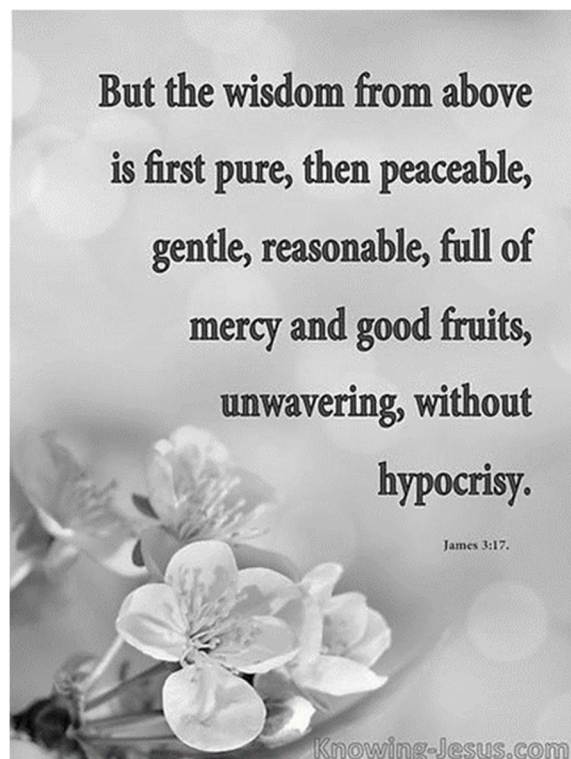
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



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

**September 19, 2021 - 10:30 am**

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**17th 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 Class: Class 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

Opening Song “For the Beauty of the Earth” No. 879

### **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,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God our comforter:

**C: Like lost sheep, we have gone astray.  
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.  
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.  
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.  
Free us from our sin, gracious God.  
Listen when we call out to you for help.  
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.  
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.  
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise** “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus” No. 451  
(all verses)

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Announcements**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 1**

*For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous. Ps. 1:6*

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**<sup>6</sup>for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

#### **SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a**

*James contrasts the wisdom from above, with all its good characteristics, with the desire to "have things," which leads to conflicts in the community. Meaning in life does not come from cravings for possessions or pleasure, which only breed competition.*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth.

<sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>4:1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*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 9.

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

### **GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37**

*Jesus' teaching and action here are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to the concern for greatness is servanthood.*

[Jesus and the disciples] went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON Pastor Rayl  
Sermon Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" No. 803

*(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.)*

### **Chancel Choir**

*"A Welcome Place"*

Raney/Williams

### **Offering Prayer**

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Intercessory Prayer**

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

### **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

Video

### Blessing

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, (+) one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn     *"Come, We That Love the Lord"*  
Postlude

No. 625  
Dr. Pattin

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### *PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE*

#### ELDERS

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

#### SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

*September 19, 2021*

*17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

### **Welcomed in a Child**

All the greatness humankind can fashion for itself is put to shame by the glory God gives to childlike faith. In the gospel reading two weeks from today, Jesus will tell his disciples, "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Mark 10:15). Everything is upside-down in Jesus' teachings--children know more than scholars, servants become greater than masters, to die is to win life, the last shall be first and the first shall be last. In today's gospel, Jesus insists that welcoming a young child means welcoming Jesus, which means welcoming the all-powerful God above.

Surely childlike faith is one thing, but a child standing in God's place? Jesus in the form of a little kid who we can welcome with open arms? Yes. This is the kind of unexpected reversal that the Almighty seems to love. For God is not only welcomed through a child; God became a child.

In ten weeks it will be Advent, and we will be asked once again to stretch our imaginations and attempt to fathom the idea of God living as a baby. Do we truly welcome this truth of God's identity and ways? Can we truly welcome all that God's plan brings us, having faith that our journey has been walked before, believing that the one who has fully completed it returns to our sides to guide us on our way?

Let us, as little children, lift our arms toward our God in prayer. Let us welcome each other in peace. And let us open our arms to receive all that lies ahead of us.