

## First St. John Lutheran Church

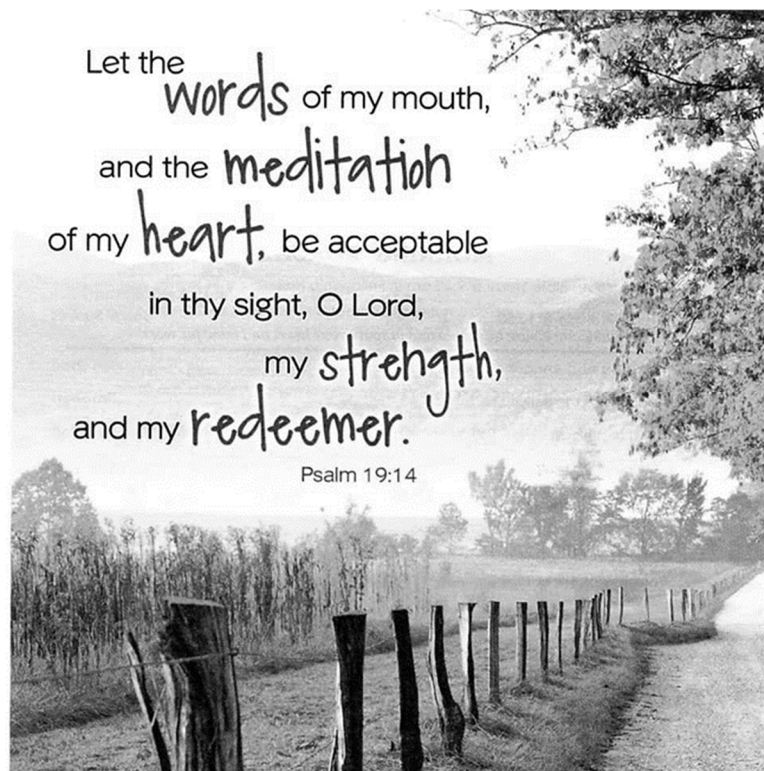
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



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

**September 26, 2021 - 10:30 am**

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**18th 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

“Build My Life”

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,  
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 peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Announcements

#### **PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14**

*The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup>**the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**  
<sup>9</sup>the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

#### **SECOND READING: James 5:13-20**

*This letter offers advice concerning a variety of common problems. In these verses, however, James concludes with an uplifting picture of what the church can be: a community of prayer and praise, restoration and healing.*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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 9:38-50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize these words apply to them as well as to others.*

John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>"For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

*"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

Pastor Rayl

No. 614

*(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.

### **Intercessory Prayer**

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**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** *"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"* arr. Schrader

### **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.**

### **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: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. To you be praise, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **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: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

### **The Communion** (*distribution will be continuous*)

*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**

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"* No. 471

*"Bread of Life from Heaven"* No. 474

*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace. Amen.

### **Prayer After Communion**

P: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **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 *"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"* No. 774  
Postlude Dr. Pattin

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

**ELDERS:** Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

**SOUND BOARD:** Mark Ackerman

# PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

- |                |                        |                   |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| dish soap      | shampoo, child         | disposable razors |
| paper towel    | laundry soap           | toothbrush, adult |
| toilet paper   | fabric softener sheets | toothpaste, adult |
| tissues        | body lotion            | sanitary pads     |
| deodorant      | body soap              | band aids         |
| shampoo, adult |                        |                   |

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members.

**If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



## Outside the Lines

It's tempting to look at people outside our familiar group--our church, our denomination, our community, perhaps--and be suspicious of them because they aren't like us. We have a natural impulse to compete in order to survive.

The disciples were certainly irked by an outsider in today's reading. They noticed someone casting out demons in Jesus' name and tried to stop him because he did not follow their group. The outsider was performing similar miracles to theirs, and that probably made the disciples feel threatened.

However, Jesus continually does the surprising thing by standing with those outside the lines of polite society: delinquents, the diseased, the deranged, the oppressed, the despised, the neglected. He tells the disciples to let this exorcist who is not in their group be, for his actions show that his heart is in the right place. Even the disciples reported to Jesus that the man cast out demons "in your name."

But how do we know that a person who says they are performing acts in Christ's name is not just making a false claim? Jesus himself gave us some advice in this vein: those bearing and acting in Christ's name will bear good fruit worthy of that name, living in service to others. And this is a cause for great joy rather than competition--we are not to cause one another to stumble in sin or disbelief. We are to celebrate, cooperate together with, and affirm the believers that may be considered "outside" our normal sphere.

"Have salt in yourselves," Jesus advises, "and be at peace with one another." As we've seen in other passages, salt is a powerful metaphor: it preserves, flavors, even heals. We are above all to live in harmony together, preserving the peace and welcoming outsiders into the community of faith.