

The 1900's

After Pastor Carl Beckel's death in February of 1894, the parish called Pastor Gideon Rausch, who served until the spring of 1900. Then the congregation called Pastor W. Wacke who served for 29 years until June, 1929. During his tenure, the parish bought a piece of land and enlarged the church yard.

By early 1928 the second church was 60 years old and again became too small. In the spring of 1928 construction of a new church began, and on June 10th they laid the cornerstone. On November 4, 1928 the new (existing) church was consecrated, and it serves its members even today. The church and organ cost approximately \$84,000--an amazing achievement for its members who were about to face the Great Depression in 1929 and World War II in 1939. From 1929 through 1945 the church struggled just to meet expenses.



Pastors

On June 23, 1929 Pastor William Wacke retired at age 75 after having served for 29 years. Pastor C. A. Wiederanders was called and served until 1947. In 86 years the church had only three pastors—a testament to the dedication of its clergy.

The tradition continues. Over the last 74 years only five senior pastors have served First St. John: Gerd Heidmann, Earl Willer, Harold Buenting, Robert Blohm, and Jerald Rayl (current). During their tenure, the church also had eight associate pastors: Kurt Heidmann, Robert Menter, Ronald Staber, John Underdahl, Philip Jordan, Gerald Webster, Jim Wicker, and Sharon Stonerock.

Today



One hundred and sixty years later, First St John Lutheran Church continues to serve. Pastor Jerald Rayl leads Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM. Sunday School classes for children through adults are held at 9:15 AM. Our Day School, run by Director Andrea Buckley, has 105 students.

We now look toward the future in prayer and thanks to God.

Happy Anniversary, First St. John!



FIRST ST. JOHN 
Lutheran Church and Day School

*Called through faith Gathered in worship
Serving the community*

**Celebrating 160 Years
Of Faith and Service
1861 to 2021**

October 24, 2021

October 24, 2021 Special 160th Anniversary Worship

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Our regular Sunday worship includes two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular 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. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

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 5th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!) at 9:15 am.

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) under the main bulletin board. 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, there are memorial cards in a stand near the bulletins. Or, you may mail one in or pick up a card in the church office and place it in the offering plate.

A Brief History of First St. John

In the late 1850's, the Rev. Johannes Doerfler, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church on Huron Street in Toledo, began mission work among the few scattered Lutherans settled in Oregon Township.

Not a single road existed east of the Maumee River beyond Front and Main Streets. To reach these Lutherans, Pastor Doerfler followed trails through woods and marshes. Services were first held in a log cabin on the corner of Consaul and Otter Creek Roads. Later when more space was needed, services were conducted on Jerusalem Road (now State Route 2) in Mr. Frederick Clausing's barn.

The Church is Established

In 1861, Pastor Doerfler established First St. John Lutheran Church. Eight charter members organized the congregation: John Frederick Clausing, John F. W. Bitter, John Christoph Ackerman, Leonhard Schmidt, Frederick Koehne, John Dietrich Koehne, Henry Koehne, and Henry Tiedjen. A 21 x 31 foot church was built just east of the Orphans Home on Seaman Street.



First and Second Church Building



In 1862, a year after its organization, the little flock called its first local pastor, Rev. Carl Beckel. Under his leadership the congregation was incorporated under the laws of Ohio on June 22, 1863. The church grew, and by 1868 another 12 feet were added to the building. By 1876, the church had grown so much that a new 40 x 60 foot church was built for \$3,500.

A balcony was added in 1885 to increase capacity.

After a highly successful pastorate of 31 years, St. John's lost its faithful pastor in February of 1894.

German Heritage

While the German language predominated among the Lutheran settlers, it was also the official language of the congregation. English Sunday School and church services were introduced in 1910. Regular weekly English services, were added in 1915, but the English language did not predominate until World War I in 1917. The German language was dropped entirely from the Sunday School in 1919, and German church services were discontinued in 1934.

P: For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.

C: O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

Prayer of the Day

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Praise Song

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

FSJ Praise Singers

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 8:22-30

After blessing the assembly of Israel, King Solomon prays to the Lord and dedicates the temple.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

The Lord’s Prayer

*Bradley Baker, baritone
Susan Stephenson, violin*

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.

C: Praise be to God.

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 Music

Susan Stephenson, Violinist

(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: Let us pray. Almighty God we give you thanks that you fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacrament meal, to do the work you have given us to do; to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

(Please be seated)

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

“Where It All Began”

Bob Haar

Piano Solo

Jacob Henry

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Peter describes God’s people as living stones, a holy priesthood, built into a spiritual house with Christ Himself as the cornerstone.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
And a light unto my path.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

Three times Jesus says that his sheep are secure; no one will snatch them from Jesus' or the Father's hands. The sheep have eternal life and so shall never perish.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

Vocal Solo

"City Called Heaven" Mr. Bradley Baker

SERMON

Reverend Daniel Beaudoin
Bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sermon Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" No. 836

(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.**

(Please be seated)

Presentation of 160th Anniversary Gift to the N.W.O. Synod

The Offering

Offertory

"The Spirit of the Lord"

Peter Scholtes
FSJ Chancel Choir

(Please stand)

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: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you O Lord, holy Father, through the great shepherd of your flock, Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the age. And so, with patriarchs and prophets, with all who have gone before us, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: