

First St. John Lutheran Church

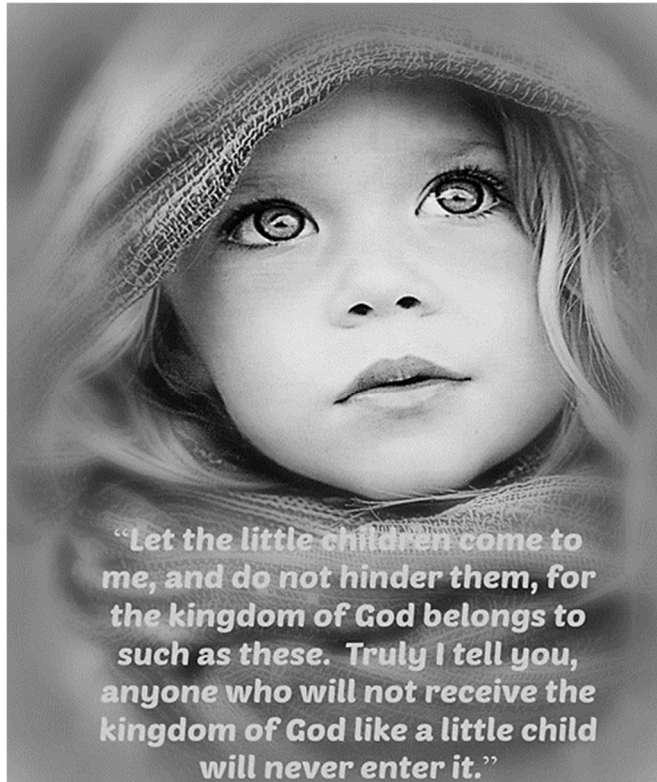
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

October 3, 2021 - 10:30 am

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19th 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. 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 5th 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 Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell

Opening Song “God, Whose Almighty Word” No. 673

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. Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

PSALM: Psalm 8

You adorn us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:6)

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

**²Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

**³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;**

**⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

**⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

**⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

**⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,**

**⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

**⁹O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:10-12

Hebrews, an early Christian sermon, emphasizes that Jesus became so fully human that he shared our experience of death. The one through whom all things exist is the one who calls us brother and sister.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:10}It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:13-16

Jesus announced and enacted a new reality of God's surprising activity. This story demonstrates that children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior.

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Pastor Rayl
No. 764

(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

"I Love You, Lord"

Laurie Klein

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.

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
Postlude

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

No. 820
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Beth Hugueley

October 3, 2021

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saving Bonds

What are we to do with Jesus' words that those who divorce and remarry commit adultery? We begin with the historical context of a society in which laws about marriage and divorce were concerned mostly with claims to inheritance.

Jewish law allowed divorce, but the rabbis disagreed regarding the grounds for divorce. The Pharisees try to trick Jesus to see which interpretation of the law he will support. Jesus' answer actually demands a higher standard where women's rights are also of concern. He is more concerned with saving the bonds of marriage than looking for loopholes for divorce.

Jesus holds up high ideals of living within the dominion of God. Then as now, we live in a world marked by sin, or "hardness of heart" as Jesus calls it in today's gospel. Certainly there are situations where divorce is preferable to emotional or physical abuse, or to children living in a home devoid of love and respect. But the deeper truth is that we have all failed in loving one another.

Whatever our marital situation, God calls us to live in partnership with one another, forming bonds of love and trust. These are the human bonds that deepen our joy and make life bearable in times of grief and pain. God provides many kinds of partners along the way: family, friends, spouses, companions, members of our faith community.

God is our ultimate faithful partner, our helper in life. In baptism God forms a holy bond with us that will never be broken. Amid the brokenness of our lives we seek to not judge one another, but rather live with openness and humility. God's love for us is not based on whether our relationships have endured. God's faithfulness is the saving bond that will never be broken, and enables us to leave the past behind and venture with confidence into the future.