

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

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[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



**October 31, 2021**

**Reformation Day**

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.

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.

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

**October 31, 2021 - 10:30 am**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Song "Thy Strong Word" No. 511 v. 1, 2, 4, 5

**Rite of Holy Baptism** (see insert)

### **Prayer of the Day**

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Announcements**

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The Babylonian exiles blamed their captivity on their ancestors who had broken the covenant established at Mount Sinai. But the prophet envisions a day when the people can no longer make such a complaint, for there will be no need to teach the law. Knowledge of God and of God's laws will be a gift from God, written on the heart.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

<sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 46**

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:4)*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> **The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

<sup>8</sup> **Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> **"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."**

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

*Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders believed the heart of the gospel was found in these words of Paul written to the Romans. All people have sinned, but God offers forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus. We are justified—put right with God—by the gift of God's grace, through faith in Jesus.*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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. John Chapter 8.

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

### **GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

*The Reformation sought to emphasize that true freedom is not related to ethnic distinctions or social class. Only Jesus can free us from slavery to sin, which he does through the truth of the gospel.*

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"O Word of God Incarnate"

Pastor Rayl

No. 514

*(Please stand)*

### **Intercessory Prayer**

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Please be seated)*

**The Offering** *(We are now passing the offering plate again.)*

**Musical Offertory** "Forever / A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

arr. Jack 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      *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*  
Postlude

No. 504  
Dr. Pattin

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

**SOUND BOARD**

Beth Hugueley



## Shoebox Gift Suggestions

### Crafts & Activities

Pencils & Erasers, Crayons, Coloring books, Watercolor set, Playdough, Stickers, Jump rope, Make-it-yourself craft kit, Puzzles, Binoculars, Fishing kit, Gardening kit with gloves and trowel (no seeds), Magnets, Playing cards, Chalkboard and chalk

### Personal Care Items

Comb, Hair Brush, Toothbrush, Washcloth, Bandages (colorful), Cup, Water bottle, Plate, Bowl, Bracelets, Sunglasses, Non-liquid lip balm, Flashlight (solar powered or hand crank; if battery operated please include extra batteries), Stick deodorant (for ages 10-14)

### Clothing & Accessories

Shirt, Pants, Underwear, Purse, Shoes & Socks, Flip-flops, Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Wristwatch, Hair bows, Tote bag, Bead jewelry kit, Hair clips, ribbons, or bands, Bandana

### Toys

Foam Ball, Finger puppets, Slinky, Etch a Sketch, Interactive toys with push buttons (include extra batteries), Tennis Ball, Play cars/trucks/boats, Plastic dinosaurs, Yo-yo, Small Frisbee, Costume jewelry, Hacky sack, Kaleidoscope

### A "Wow" Item

Doll, Stuffed Animal, Harmonica, Outfit of clothing, Soccer ball, Football, Toy cars, Baseball & mitt

### School Supplies

Pencils, Small manual pencil sharpener, Markers, Solar-powered calculator, Blank index cards, Safety (blunt tip) scissors, Pencil case, Glue stick (non-liquid), Ruler

## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

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

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.



**2021 POINSETTIA SALE**  
SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the church on Christmas Eve. Fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by Sunday, December 5<sup>h</sup>. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks to: **First St. John Lutheran**

*Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.*

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Number of plants @ \$12.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Color (circle one)    Red                      White

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*October 31, 2021*

*REFORMATION DAY*

**For Our Time**

In certain seasons of our lives we may feel like we have lost passion and energy within ourselves, in a significant relationship, in our faith, or even in our involvement with the church. What once had meaning may now seem empty or dull.

Though we continue to tell the "old, old story" of Jesus and his love, it is made new in the context of our present-day lives, and as it leads us forward into the future with a renewed faith. Though that usually involves change, many of us would like to remain in the safe and comfortable faith of our childhood, rather than face the challenges of a mature and questioning faith.

The Reformation, which we celebrate today, was a time of great change and upheaval. Martin Luther and the other reformers made the gospel come alive for that time. They taught that the heart of the gospel is that we are justified by God's grace as a gift. There is nothing we can do to earn God's favor. Rather, the truth that sets us free is that God loves us unconditionally.

If the gospel is to be fresh and dynamic in each generation, it means that we will be open to the Spirit's leading in our day and time. In what ways is the church in need of reform in our time? Our baptismal journey always leads us forward into a future in which the gospel will change and transform us. We seek not only personal salvation, but healing for the world and all those who live with poverty or brokenness. As we are set free from the powers of sin and death, we cannot but help work for justice for all those enslaved by oppression. We go forth to passionately proclaim the gospel of God's mercy and grace for our time.