

First St. John Lutheran Church

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www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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

November 14, 2021

25th 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.

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!).

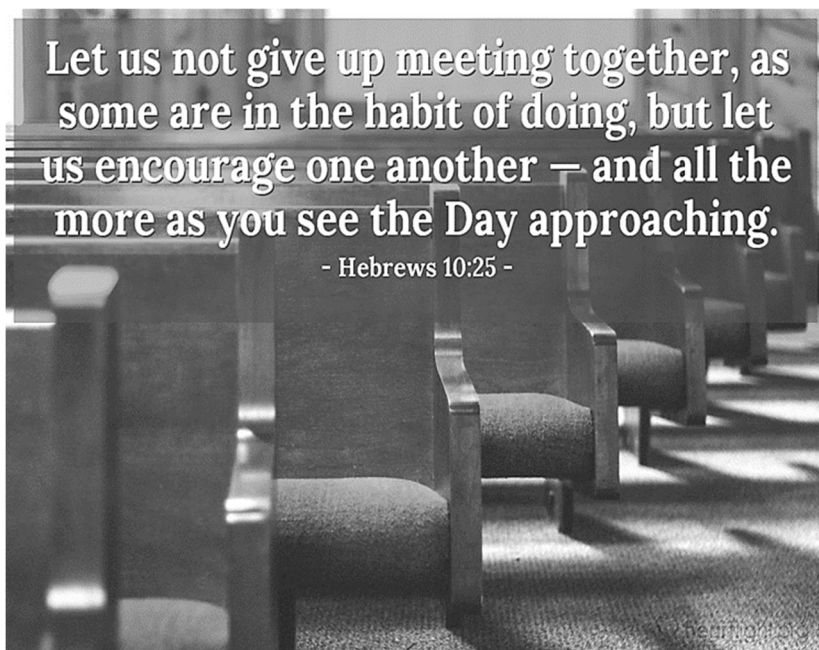
Catechism Class: Class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

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.



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

November 14, 2021 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell *(please stand as you are able)*
Opening Song “Way Maker” Praise Singers

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

C: We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

P: God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ☩ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

C: Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

Announcements

Women's Awareness

Women of the ELCA's mission is mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. On our First St. John Women's Awareness Sunday, we celebrate all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out your baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

So, be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Christ Jesus; that's what Women of the ELCA and of First St. John Lutheran celebrate!

A Litany of Boldness

P: O Creative God, you made us in your image.

C: You call us into discipleship in Jesus Christ.

P: You empower us through the Holy Spirit.

C: Let your loving kindness be upon us as you accept our prayers.

P: O God of our ancestors, we remember the bold witness of our foremothers who paved the way for all women, lay and ordained.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: O Holy One, who breathes life into us all, we raise before you the bold women among us today.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For those who pray, for those who parent, for those who study, for those who advocate,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For those who laugh, for those who share, for those who extend hospitality, for those who smile,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: O God of infinite possibility, grant to us all the opportunity to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O God of abundant life, grant to us all emotional, physical and spiritual wholeness so that we might best serve others in your name.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O God of strength, give us courage, hope and open hearts, that we might experience expanding possibilities and grow through change.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, you have inspired and empowered women throughout all ages.

C: Give us the courage and wisdom to act boldly on our faith in you, O Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining One. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 16

My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**²I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."**

³As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

**⁴Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.**

⁵The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

**⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

**⁸I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

**¹⁰For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

¹¹You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

This letter presents an extended discussion of how Christ offered himself as a sacrifice so that sinners, cleansed by his blood, might have life. Therefore, our life together should be marked by confidence, assurance, hope, and encouragement.

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins.

¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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 13.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning the trials that were to come upon them and the world. He tells the listener: Do not be alarmed.

As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ²Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴"Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"

⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

Pastor Rayl

No. 638

(Please stand)

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessory Prayer *(following each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

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

Chancel Choir *"Change My Heart / Lord be Glorified"*

Espinosa / Kilpatrick

(please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our 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: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen, amen, 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: A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

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

"Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness" No. 488

"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" No. 492

(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: Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

C: Amen.

Responsive Prayer for Veteran's Day

Leader: We remember today, O God, all those who have served under the colors of their countries.

People: We commend them to you for their bravery, their patriotism, and their honor.

Leader: Grant that those who serve today may be kept in your everlasting love and protection.

People: Give comfort and encouragement to their families.

Leader: We pray for the day when there will be peace on earth and the kingdoms of this world will have become the kingdoms of our Christ.

People: Hasten that day, O God, and help us to live in that hope. Fill us with your spirit of love and forgiveness, in order that we may understand the nature of Christ's kingdom.

Leader: Hear our prayers for our enemies in the world, that they may be converted to Christ's will for the nations and join us in a better world community.

People: Let your holy will prevail among all people, and your name be exalted forever. Amen.

The Blessing

P: God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen.

The Dismissal

P: Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"

No. 856 v. 1, 3, 4

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

OFFERING COLLECTORS

Sherrie Haar, Darlene Lorenzen, Sue Ann Rogers



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	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.



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^h. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks to: **First St. John Lutheran**

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 5th.

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) _____

November 14, 2021

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gloom and Doom

In some places November has more than its share of gloomy, overcast days, which can be a source of melancholy for some people. The chill in the air is a reminder of the cold weather ahead. As the hours of daylight decrease, it appears that nature itself is dying. November is the time in the church year when we reflect on our mortality and the final chapters of human life.

Today's gospel includes the gloomy words of Jesus that not one stone will be left upon another, a reference to the destruction of the temple. Sometimes passages like these are used to stir up a fear of judgment day. Some of the Bible's passages about the end time are filled with images of potential doom. Yet such apocalyptic literature used symbolic and cosmic language as a means to give hope and strength to believers in a time of persecution.

There are times when life can appear overwhelming, and we wonder why God doesn't seem to hear or answer our prayers. But go deeper. The barren trees, the colder weather, and the readings about the end time all invite us to go inward. Sometimes it takes an awareness of the end to make us stop and look at the beauty of life, and the blessings of God all around us.

As God has been our help in ages past, God will be our hope for years to come. But even more than that, it is the present moment that is ours now. We need not fear the gloom and doom, for in Christ the sun of God's mercy and lovingkindness shines on us. Whether living or dying, healthy or ill, content or restless, we belong to God. And while living fully and joyfully in the present, we press on toward God's promised future and the light of endless day.