

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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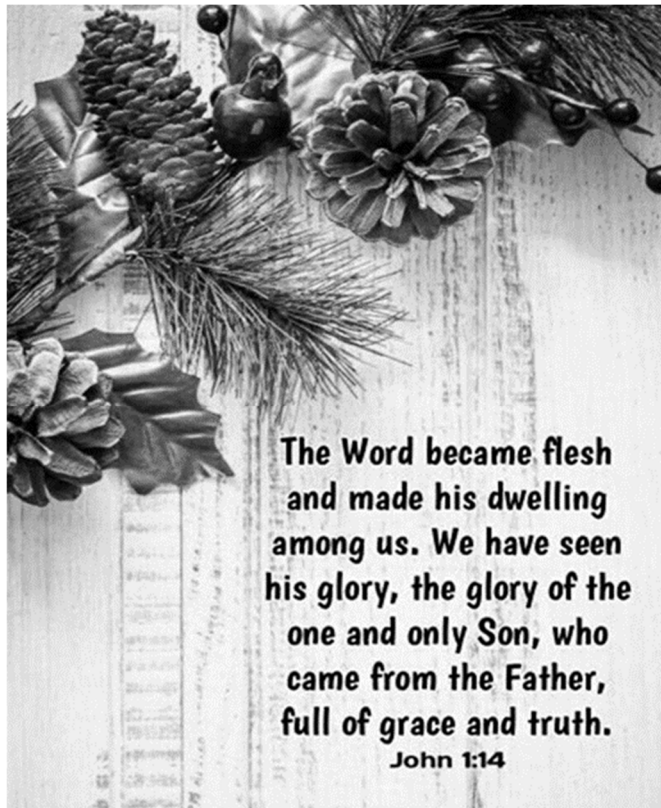
[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



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

**January 2, 2022 - 10:30 am**

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**Second Sunday of Christmas**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer 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](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 Dr. Pattin

Ring of the Bell

Opening Song "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" No. 282

### PSALM: Psalm 148

*His glory is above earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup>**He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup>**Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup>**Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

### Confession and Forgiveness

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**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, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*Like the prophets who announce homecoming and salvation in the book of Isaiah, Jeremiah announces the wondrous homecoming of God's people from exile. Once again the Lord enters human history to fulfill the promise made during the exodus from Egypt so long ago: "I will be your God, and you will be my people."*

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*The letter to the Ephesians concerns God's plans and purpose for the world. It begins with a prayer thanking God for the blessings that already belong to us in Christ and for the yet more glorious future that awaits.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## **Alleluia Verse**

*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 1.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

*John's gospel presents Jesus as the full embodiment of God's grace and truth, the one who reveals God's love for the whole creation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON  
Sermon Hymn

*"Christ, Be Our Light"*

Pastor Rayl  
No. 715

*(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** *"A Cradle in the Shadow of a Cross"*

arr. Kingsmore

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: (spoken) Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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, n 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: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

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**

*"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: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn     *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*  
Postlude

No. 289  
Dr. Pattin

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

### **ELDERS**

Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger

### **SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

### **ACOLYTES**

Cam Schumaker, Aubrey Swarz

## 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.



*January 2, 2022*

*2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS*

### **Embodied Love**

The mystery is so immense as to be almost incomprehensible. That the very Word of God, present at creation when God's Spirit moved over the waters, should take on human skin and share our life, is a wonder we grasp only by faith.

That incarnate Word, whom we know as Jesus Christ, is both messenger and message. Jesus, the bearer of light to an uncomprehending people, is himself the very Light of the world. Jesus, the Word, is God's gracious word to us. It is a curious fusion, this unity of person and mission, life and teaching.

This fusion continues today in our own embodiment of Jesus' example and teaching. Through us, Jesus is not simply a concept, but real, tangible. We "live" Jesus. How? By speaking a word of encouragement to one verging on despair. By serving those whose circumstances cause them to doubt the presence or goodness of God. By modeling the love of Christ in our families, churches, and communities. By calling for an end to practices that unjustly benefit a few at the expense of many. By experiencing in suffering the redeeming presence of the God who suffers with us. By gathering weekly with other Christians to hear the word proclaimed, preached, and sung. By sharing the holy meal in which we not only receive Jesus in bread and wine, but become the very body we receive: the body of Christ.

Our witness to the Jesus who lived and suffered like us is only possible because, like Jesus, we are kept close to God's heart. We can make Christ known only because Jesus blazed the way by showing us what God is like. In this season when we celebrate the incarnation, we rejoice that Jesus reveals the very heart of God, so that we, too, might live in that love and bear it in our very bodies to all creation.