

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

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
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
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 the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 20, 2022 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Preludes “Summerland (from Three Visions)” William Grant Still
“Deep River” arr. Calvin Taylor
“Prelude” George Walker
“Bless His Holy Name” Andrae Crouch

Dr. Pattin

Ringing of the Bell (please stand)

Call to Worship

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

P: Lift up your eyes and look around:

C: All gather together to proclaim the praise of the Lord.

P: Your sun will never set again.

C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

P: Your moon will wane no more.

C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

P: Your days of sorrow will end.

C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

P: Whom shall we fear?

**C: Whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our life;
whom shall we fear?**

Opening Hymn “Lift Every Voice and Sing” No. 841

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

P: Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

(silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)

C: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your lovingkindness. In your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not remove us from your presence; do not take your Spirit away.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen.

P: God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

Announcements

Sunday School / Jesus And Me (JAM) Sandhya Holston
Observance of Black History Month Dr. Pattin

Special Music

Mrs. Nicole Wilson, soprano soloist

“Oh Freedom!”

“Praise Him!”

“Soon Ah Will be Done with the Troubles of this World”

Chancel Choir

“Soon and Very Soon” Andrae Crouch,
arr. Schrader

Special Music

“Total Praise” Richard Smallwood
Mrs. Nicole Wilson, soprano soloist

Chancel Choir

“Order My Steps”

Glenn Burleigh
arr. Schrader

(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. Luke Chapter 6.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God’s intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

“But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Ophelia Thompson

(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

Musical Offertory

Piano Solo

“Steal Away to Jesus” arr. Craig Whitaker
“Troubled Water” Margaret Bonds

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Intercessory Prayer

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

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: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" See next page
Postlude

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

GUEST SOLOIST

Mrs. Nicole Wilson

GUEST PRESENTER

Mrs. Ophelia Thompson

ELDERS

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

SOUND BOARD

Dave Willbarger

ACOLYTES

Cam Schumaker, Aubrey Swartz

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing

in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the

spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 All a - round me looked so fine,
3 Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not, the soul.

Meet Today's Special Guests

Nicole Wilson was born and raised in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She continued her higher education at the University of Toledo, majoring in Special Education. Her studies in education gave her the opportunity to educate students in the Toledo Public Schools for twenty-six years. Mrs. Wilson's current position is in educational administration as a supervisor for pupil placement.

Mrs. Wilson finds it a privilege and an honor to sing with the Clarence Smith Community Chorus (CSCC) under the direction of Clarence Smith, Jr. Mr. Smith's teachings afforded Nicole the opportunity to represent the chorus in a commercial celebrating Black History month, directed by Ms. Doni Miller for National Neighborhood Association on Channel 13, ABC.

When she is not performing with the CSCC, Mrs. Wilson is singing with the Perfecting Church Toledo's Praise and Worship Team/Choir and the 3N1 Music Group.

Ophelia Thompson is an artist, poet, musician, vocalist, motivational speaker, and storyteller. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1969 from Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, then earned a Masters of Education degree in 1976 from the University of Toledo.

She served over eight years in the Ohio Air National Guard, 180th Fighter Group, in Swanton, Ohio as Administration Specialist, Education Training Manager, and Drug & Alcohol Abuse Control Counselor.

Mrs. Thompson retired after 30 years as a teacher, counselor, and administrator at Toledo Public and Toledo Christian Schools. Currently, she is a substitute musician at Braden United Methodist Church.

She shares her poetry and music in the greater Toledo area, throughout NW Ohio and metropolitan Detroit, Michigan. She and her husband, Edgar, live in Perrysburg, Ohio.



February 20, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Command and Promise

Listening to today's gospel reading we may feel overwhelmed by the long list of commands and situations in which we might practice them. Love your enemies, give to everyone who begs from you, lend to those whom you know cannot pay you back, do not judge, forgive. These are commands that are difficult enough to wrestle with one at a time; coming as they do piled one on top of another, we may feel paralyzed by their collective challenge.

As numerous as these commands seem, they hover around a central theme. We are to behave towards others the way God behaves toward us. This is not easy for us; we know that our ways fall short of God's ways. Most days we are far from treating others as we would wish to be treated. In no case is this so obvious, perhaps, as in our human tendency to harbor self-pity, grudges, and bitterness rather than offer the gift of forgiveness to one who has wronged us.

Jesus' instruction to the crowds reminds us that we have been forgiven by God, whose mercy is boundless, and whose love for us does not depend on a tally of our good deeds. In joyful gratitude for this amazing gift, we reach out to extend the gift of forgiveness to others. Jesus shows us how God's way might also be our way.

Jesus' teaching is not just command, but also promise. Each time we share the body and blood of Jesus Christ in holy communion we claim this promise: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Now the power of sin and death is conquered. Now we are forgiven--and freed to forgive one another.