

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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Toledo, Ohio 43605  
419-691-7222

[office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

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

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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

**May 8, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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

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!).

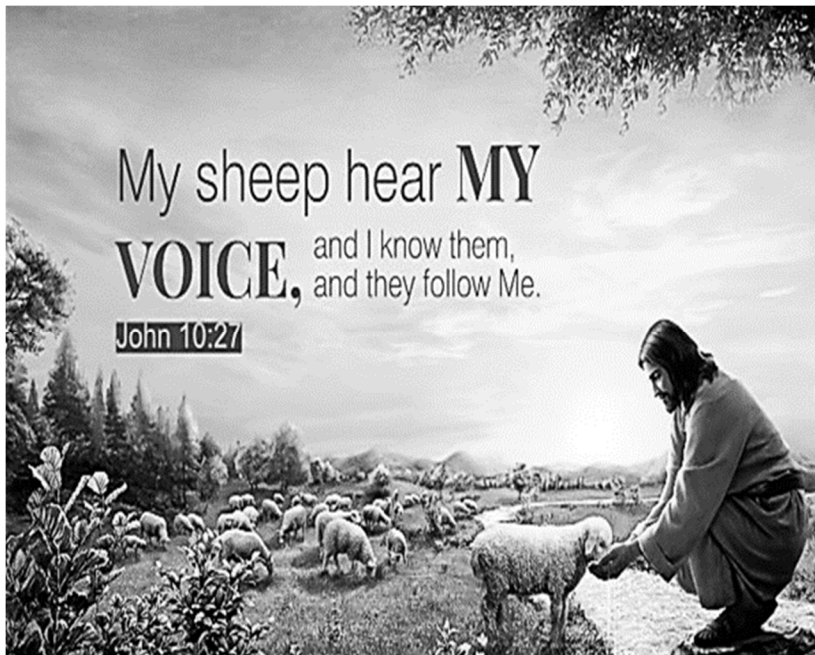
Catechism Class: Class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

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 the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.



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

**May 8, 2022 - 10:30 am**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am**

Prelude Nancy Russell

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Song "O Day of Rest and Gladness" No. 521

**The Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

P: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins, but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

**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 God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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**

**Quilter's Presentation**

Sue Moszkowicz

**PSALM: Psalm 23**

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;**

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

**SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 7:9, 13-17**

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.*

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 10.

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

### **GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

*Three times Jesus says that his sheep are secure; no one will snatch them from Jesus' or the Father's hands. The sheep have eternal life and so shall never perish.*

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,<sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.<sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;<sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.<sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

### Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON  
Sermon Hymn

*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

Pastor Rayl  
No. 392

*(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.

### Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

### The Offering

#### Chancel Choir

*"On Eagle's Wings"*

arr. D. Wagner

### Offering Prayer

P: Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in  
your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in 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.

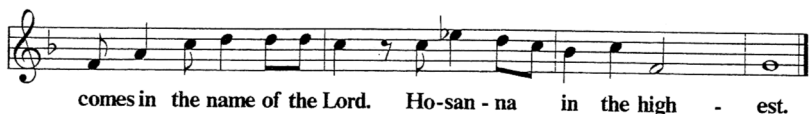
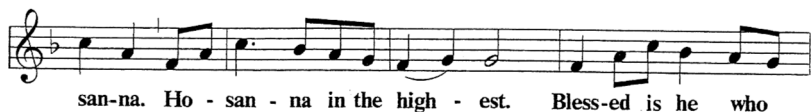
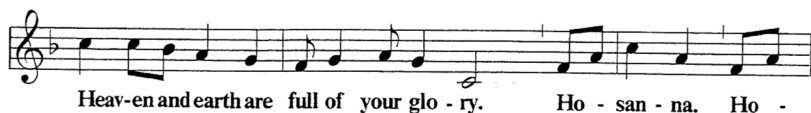
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed our right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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 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, 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.

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

### 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: The reign of God is at hand. Come, taste the joy prepared for you.

*(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."*

*(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: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

### **Blessing**

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, (✠) bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

### **Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" No. 389  
Postlude Nancy Russell

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

### **GUEST MUSICIAN**

Nancy Russell

### **ELDERS**

Bill Nelson, Mike Winslow

### **SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

### **READER**

Tom Hartford

### **ACOLYTES**

Mckenna Cummerow, Cam Schumaker

## 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.



**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**  
**SUNDAY**  
**June 19, 2022**



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF GRADUATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADUATED FROM

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

May 8, 2022

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Held Securely**

"If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." I have told you, Jesus responds, and the things I have done in God's name have demonstrated it. But you don't believe, because you don't belong to my flock.

Jesus is not saying here that the invitation is only for a select few. The Gospel of John states again and again that the whole world, all humanity, is the focus of God's saving work. Rather, Jesus is saying that he cannot demonstrate the truth to the questioners who remain outside, because believing is entering into a relationship with God. Believers abide in Jesus, Jesus abides in God, and God abides in believers. The sheep trust the shepherd who knows them, and it is in this mutual recognition that the truth becomes clear.

Sometimes the prophets talked about how God would send a shepherd for the people of Israel. They were thinking of a king who would act the way a king should: not exploiting the people but caring for them. People today continue to long for a powerful leader who will fix the economy, curtail crime, and protect them from all enemies.

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks of himself as the one who cares for the sheep, not as one who wields earthly power. The book of Revelation says it is the Lamb who was slaughtered who will be our shepherd. Jesus is our shepherd not because he is invulnerable and powerful, but because out of love he shared our human vulnerability. A superhero could rescue us without knowing who we are, without ever knowing what it feels like to be hurt. Jesus doesn't save us with a power that acts on us from the outside. Jesus saves us when we abide in him and he abides in us, when we recognize his voice and believe that he holds us securely in his wounded hands.