

First St. John Lutheran Church

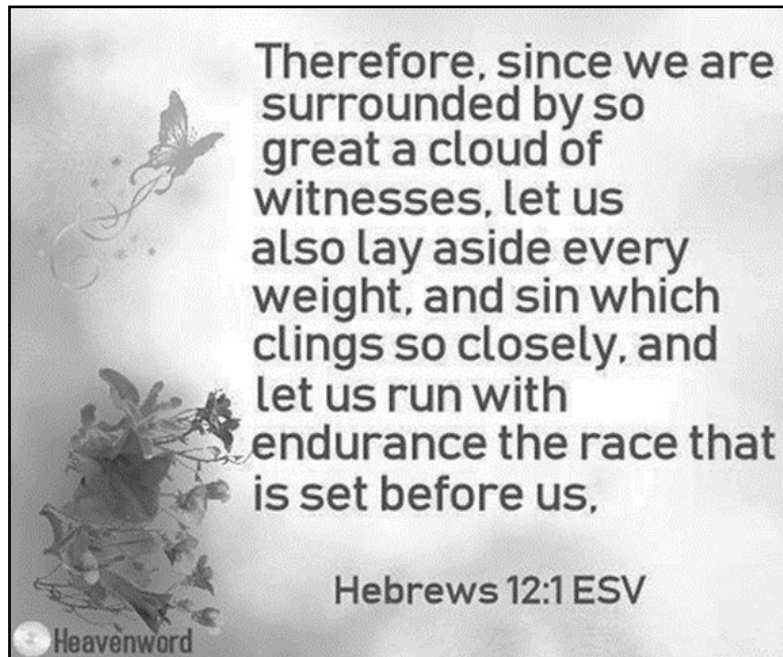
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

August 14, 2022

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Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! From September through May, we offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. For the summer, we have just one service at 9:00 am.

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.

Sunday School & Catechism are dismissed for the summer.

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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

GUEST MUSICIAN

Megan Amos

ELDERS

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

READER

Tom Hartford

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude "Andante" (from Concerto #1) Richard Strauss
Megan Amos, Horn

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now" No. 527

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation.

C: For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

(Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.)

P: We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

C: Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness, and we pass safely through.

P: In Jesus Christ, you calm the troubled waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us.

C: You have become our salvation.

P: Now, creative Holy Spirit, as you did at the moment of creation, breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

C: Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

P: To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise "Give Me Jesus" (vs. 1-3)

No. 770

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he is rejected. This reading speaks of the mistaken notion that God sees only what is happening in the temple. But Jeremiah points out that God's distance allows for a panoramic view of all the universe, including the lies and deceptions of false prophets.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

God takes his stand in the council of heaven;
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

**²"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?"**

³Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;

⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.' "

⁸Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-2

The author of Hebrews presents a long list of biblical heroes whose exemplary faith enabled them to face the trials of life. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

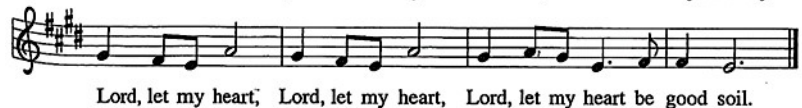
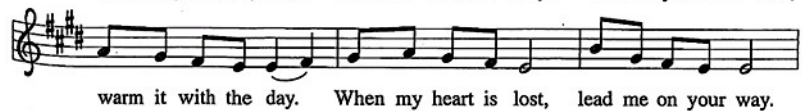
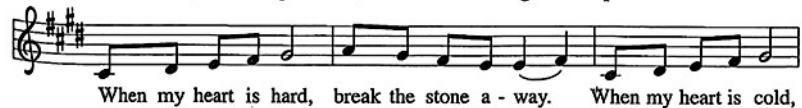
Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Special Music "Concerto #4 in E^b (1st movement)" W.A. Mozart
— Megan Amos, Horn

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 12.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

Today's gospel contains harsh words concerning the purifying and potentially divisive effects of God's call. People who follow Christ often encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Pastor Rayl
No. 705

(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.

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: God in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

The Offering

Offertory Music

“Ave Maria”

Bach / Gounod
 Megan Amos, Horn

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Living God, God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

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 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

P: 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:

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

P: We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

(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 Music

"Nocturno" Franz Strauss
Megan Amos, Horn

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"Now Thank We All Our God"* No. 840

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Dr. Pattin

NOTICE FROM LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE



You may have seen the distressing news about flash flooding in eastern Kentucky. The floodwaters rose in the middle of the night from July 27 to 28, leaving people little time to evacuate. There has also been flooding in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia and other states in the region. Many did not survive. Though hundreds of people were rescued, the number of people missing is still unknown. **The survivors of the flooding need your support.**

As the waters recede and the full scope of the damage is assessed, Lutheran Disaster Response will work with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and local community partners to focus on long-term needs. Several ELCA churches are in the impacted area, and we continue to communicate with them. We anticipate our response to include rebuilding homes, replacing lost household items and providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors.

If you can help, checks or money orders can be sent to: **Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** Write "U.S. Flooding" on your check memo line. Or, you may give by phone at **800-638-3522** (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm CT) or online at <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response> and click on "US Flooding."

We pray that God's presence will be felt amid suffering and bring comfort to those who are hurting. Together, we can show our neighbors in Kentucky that they are not alone. Thank you for your partnership.

***The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director
ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***

August 14, 2022

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Not the Jesus I Know?

When we hear Jesus ask, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?" and then his answer, "No, I tell you, but rather division!" we are tempted to say, "That doesn't sound like the Jesus I know!"

The prophet Jeremiah anticipated this accent in the voice of the Word made flesh. He wrote: "Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" (Jer. 23:29). "I came to bring fire to the earth," Jesus says.

These words *about* Jesus, spoken *by* Jesus, are all about the difference his living, dying, and rising can make in our lives. As fearsome as these fiery words may be, they cast light into the dark corners of our lives. If the death and resurrection of Jesus doesn't make a significant difference in our thinking, doing, and being, then we are missing the mark and missing the point of it all. In other words, when it comes to living life in Christ, lukewarm won't do. Remember the warning in Revelation 3:15-16? God says, "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. . . . So because you are lukewarm, . . . I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

There is no halfway with Christ Jesus. For him it was the cross or nothing. His was a baptism by fire for us and for our salvation. For us there ought be no halfway in Christ Jesus. We are in or we are out. We are for him or against him.

Let the fire in Jesus' voice rekindle the fire in your heart. Let the love in Jesus' voice increase in you the love of God and love of neighbor.