

First St. John Lutheran Church

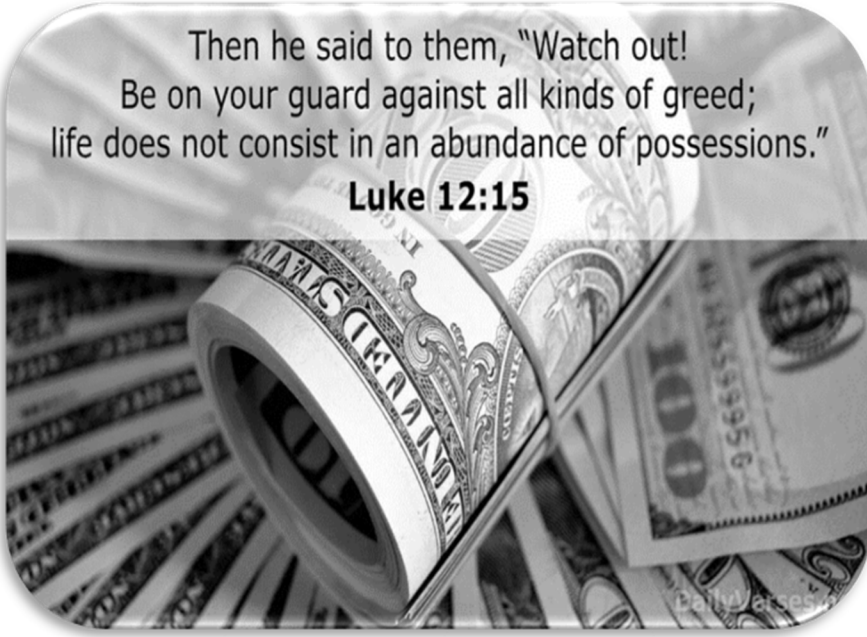
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Then he said to them, "Watch out!
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:15

July 31, 2022

Eighth 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

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Ted Hagedorn

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

READER

Laura Scherer

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" No. 597

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 fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

PSALM: Psalm 49:1-11

We can never ransom ourselves or deliver to God the price of our life. (Ps. 49:6)

Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world, you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

**²My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.**

³I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

**⁴Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,**

⁵the wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods,
and boast of their great riches?

**⁶We can never ransom ourselves,
or deliver to God the price of our life;**

⁷for the ransom of our life is so great,
that we should never have enough to pay it,

**⁸in order to live forever and ever,
and never see the grave.**

⁹For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

**¹⁰Their graves shall be their homes forever,
their dwelling places from generation to generation,
though they call the lands after their own names.**

¹¹Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes in order to put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where

Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Special Music (*I think your said there were 2 anthems*)

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Announcement

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The gospel of Luke tells not only how Jesus brought good news to the poor, but also how he sought to seek and save those who were rich. Here he warns against identifying

the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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)

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

Special Music

“Circle of Friends”

Women of the Chancel Choir and Praise Team

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.

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

P: God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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.

Farewell and Godspeed - Thankyou and Appreciation to

Annette Slater, FSJ Music Director

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 *“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”* No. 536

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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.



Holding On for Dear Life

The rich man in the parable is holding on to all that he has for dear life. For us who have so much, it is easy to relate to that rich man. We cling to our investments, our job, our second job, our car, our second car, our house, our second mortgage. And too often what we still want is--*more*. We say we want to secure our future. The book of Eccles. (1:14b) says such striving is "vanity and a chasing after wind."

The things to which we so desperately cling are dangerous on two counts. First, they tie our hands. That means they bind up the hands of the Lord Jesus, for ours are the hands the Lord uses in the world today. When we are so heavily invested in holding on to what we have and acquiring more of the same, the very hands that are needed to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the bereaved are otherwise occupied.

Second (and more dangerous still), the things which we work so desperately to hold on to can blind us to the fact that *we are being held*. They can dim our understanding that we do not belong to ourselves--that we were purchased and won on the cross and in the waters of baptism. They easily cloud our vision of the new reality in which we are blessed to live. In the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and through the washing by water and the working of the Word, our lives are "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). As the Father received the Son with open arms, echoing Jesus' saving gesture on the holy cross, so the Father embraces us for whom Christ died, forever. That, and not the world of things, is the new reality in which we live. God is holding onto us for the sake of the Crucified and Risen One.