

September 18, 2022

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Show of Hands

Our hands tell a story. They tell the story of our lives in some specific detail. The calluses, the scars, the grease stains are very revealing. They are stark reminders of where our hands have been and with what they have been occupied. What we choose to do with our hands is the very essence of our lives.

When we pray the prayer of the day today, "Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom," we are asking God to direct the work of our hands. When we first order our lives by the wisdom of God, then we can put our hands to each task with confidence.

When the wisdom of God orders our lives, our foolish hands may reveal a marked change. Think of Jesus' hands. His were hands soiled with mud and spittle in the healing of a man born blind. His were hands held out in welcome to little children. His were hands scarred with the mark of the nails in the horror of the crucifixion. His were hands that came to serve, not to be served.

The lifting up of hands in prayer is the "first of all" with which Paul instructs Timothy in the second reading. Prayer is always the first order of business for Christian hands--the first of our tasks in the work of the kingdom. Thereafter, baptized hands that have been lifted up in prayer "for everyone" will be extended to serve some. If even shrewd (ever-so-slightly-dishonest) servants, like the one in the gospel, understand the merit in serving the poor and the debtor, how much more might we, servants of the self-sacrificing Lord Jesus, be eager to put our hands to those tasks?

First St. John Lutheran Church

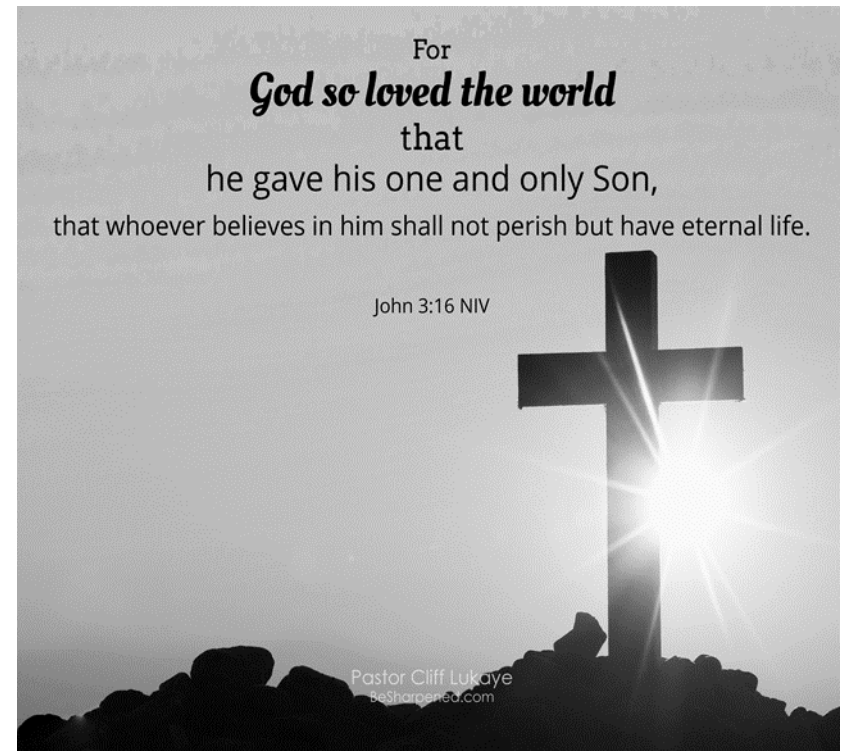
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

September 18, 2022 - 10:30 am

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15th Sunday After Pentecost

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 / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

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 at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

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.

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.



JESUS AND ME (JAM) SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Sue Ann Rogers 3-Year Olds & Preschool

Bob Haar Adult Sunday School

Grade School Classes

Debbie Ladd

Darlene Paul

DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Andrea Buckley Administrator

Michelle Swank Begindergarten Teacher

Lexie Zunk Begindergarten Aide

Angel Brown Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF

Dawn Ireland Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF

Kellie Ulrich Teacher, 3-Year Olds, TTH

Jill Deneau Teacher, 3-Year Olds, M-F

Bonnie Petroff Teacher, 4-Year Olds, M-F

Jenny Garcia 4-Year Olds, MWF Aide

Lydia Thiel 4-Year Olds, TTH Aide

Marie Ivan Aide—All Preschool Classes, T-F

Emily Brown Aide—All Preschool Classes, MWF

Shela Stringham Day School Cook

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell

Welcome to Worship Pastor Rayl

Opening Song "Shine, Jesus, Shine" No. 671

Opening Dialog

P: The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**C: One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

P: Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**C: their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message
to the ends of the world.**

P: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the
simple.

**C: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to
the eyes.**

P: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine
gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

P: By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

P: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them
not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my
redeemer.**

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. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Installation of J.A.M. and Day School Teachers and Staff

(J.A.M. and Day School Teachers and Staff please come forward)

P: Dear friends, before his ascension our Lord commissioned his followers with these words: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

P: You have been called to the ministry of teaching and administering the Jesus And Me Sunday School and Day School ministry of First St. John Lutheran Church. This task carries important responsibilities. You have been entrusted with the gospel. It is your duty to clearly make known the Holy Scriptures so those who are entrusted to your care will be led into a knowledge of redemption through faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. You need not fear; God has promised to be with you in the person of the Holy Spirit who will provide for your every need. Therefore, honestly answer the following questions before God and in the presence of this congregation:

P: Are you willing to accept this responsibility to which God has called you? Will you earnestly study your lessons so you might accurately teach the children about the wonders of God? Will you faithfully instruct those entrusted to your care in the ways of God, giving freely of your heart, mind, time, and talent so that you may fulfill your duties to the best of your ability? Will you be a proper role model for those observing your behavior, teaching not just with words, but with actions?

Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "On Our Way Rejoicing" No. 537

Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Mike Winslow

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

P: They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

P: We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus, whom we seek to follow day by day.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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.

If so, answer: **I WILL, WITH GOD BEING MY HELPER.**

P: (to the congregation) Members of the Body of Christ, we celebrate the presence of God as we recognize God's call, received by these members of our fellowship to the direction and teaching of our Sunday School and Day School. They come in a spirit of devotion to offer themselves to God for this service, and so it is our obligation to support them by our encouragement and prayers, that they may be empowered for this calling with faithfulness to the glory of God.

As members of First St. John Lutheran Church will you promise your faithful encouragement and prayerful support in the home and the church?

If so, answer: **WE WILL.**

P: To the Lord who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 98:1-4

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²**The Lord has made known his victory;
He has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(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. John Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

Message Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

Pastor Rayl

No. 660

Day School Kids Sing

“This Little Light of Mine”

“Jesus Loves Me”

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Children’s Message

Pastor Rayl

Blessing of the Backpacks

P: Today we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here.

P: Work to be done, work that’s been returned, books to be read and shared, and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks. Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that students may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent the work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our lives, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

Let us pray:

P: Gracious God, we lift these students to you today. They stand here ready to receive your blessings, and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them. Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks.