

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

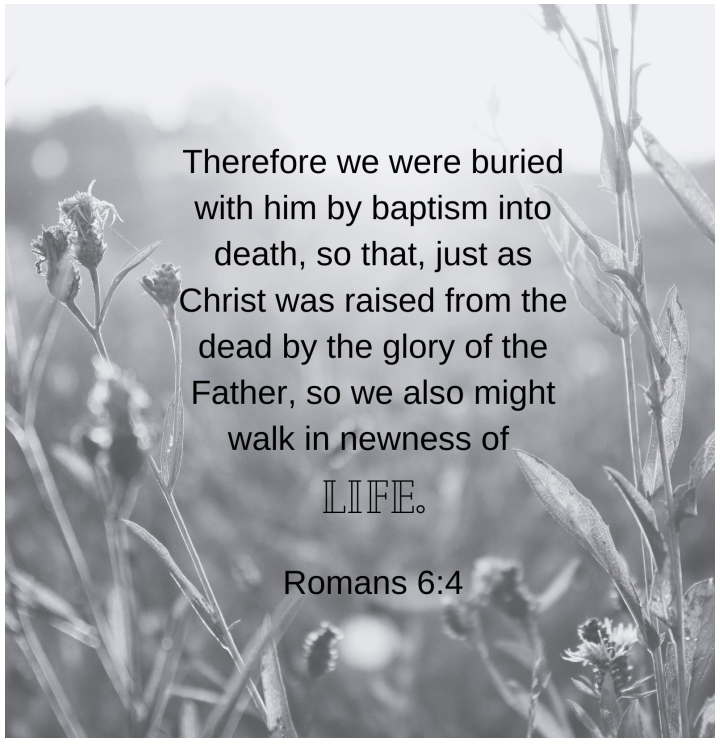
2471 Seaman Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43605  
419-691-7222

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

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

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician  
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director  
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



Therefore we were buried  
with him by baptism into  
death, so that, just as  
Christ was raised from the  
dead by the glory of the  
Father, so we also might  
walk in newness of  
**LIFE.**

Romans 6:4

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

**June 25, 2023 - 9:00 am**

**June 25, 2023**

**Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Through the Summer months we offer on service. Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday throughout the Summer.

9:00 am

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

**SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA:** Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

**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 lounge. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**ELDERS**

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

**READER**

Bob Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringling of the Bell (Please Stand)

Opening Hymn "Let the Whole Creation Cry" No.876

Rite of Baptism See insert

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

### Passing of the Peace

*The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, "Peace be with you."*

*We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:*

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High" No. 857

**"Lord I lift your name on high;  
Lord I love to sing your praises,  
I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way.  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high."**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## Announcements

### Introduction

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

### **PSALM: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18**

<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup>**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup>**I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>11</sup>I put on sackcloth also,  
and became a by-word among them.

<sup>12</sup>**Those who sit at the gate mur-mur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O  
LORD:

"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your un-failing help.

<sup>14</sup>**Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from  
those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

<sup>15</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

<sup>16</sup>**Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>18</sup>**Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies de-liver me.**

### **FIRST READING: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into

his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### **Gospel Acclamation**



### **Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 9.

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35-10:4**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are

not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

<sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **SERMON**

Pastor Rayl

### **Sermon Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

No. 793

*(Please stand)*

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

P: Hear us O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Offering**

### **Offertory Music**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our 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 our 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, 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.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 his 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 and 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.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: To you, O God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**C: We come at our Lord's command.**

### The Communion (distribution will be continuous)

*"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.*

*Infant 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 if you are not receiving the bread and wine."*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*



# 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.



*June 25, 2023*

*FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

## **Welcoming Christ**

Worship, and any other time that Christians gather, is a great time to practice our welcoming skills. We can welcome newcomers, "old timers," children, and those recovering from illness. We hope we also will be welcomed by others.

Of course, God does not want us to keep all the welcoming inside the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. Our loving actions toward others are signs of God's welcome in daily life. We pray, too, that we will be welcomed by those with whom we share the good news of God's love. Jesus tells us that those who welcome us welcome him. That is, for the people we meet, we are the representatives of Jesus. What a privilege to bring Jesus into the lives of those who don't know him.

To know Jesus, it is not necessary to have lived two thousand years ago and to have personally witnessed Jesus' teaching and healing. The community of faith, gathered around word and sacrament, are Christ's representatives in this time and place. So we need to be mindful of what our words and deeds tell others about the God we worship. The smallest gesture of welcome, even a cup of cold water for those who thirst, can plant the seed that leads another person to Christ.

Keep in mind that God doesn't reach out solely through good church people, the powerful, eloquent, or well-educated. Just as Jesus came to earth in the lowliest of circumstances, the least likely individuals can bring the gift of God's love to those who seemingly have every earthly advantage.

So how are we to respond to this dual charge to welcome and be welcomed? We must seize opportunities to share God's love with others. We must also be ready to welcome the presence of Christ when he greets us in the face of another.