

First St. John Lutheran Church

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

office@firststjohn.com

www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 21, 2024 - 10:30 am

January 21, 2024

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	JAM Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:45 am	2nd Year Catechism (every other Sunday)
2:00 pm	Chapel Communion (2nd Sunday of the month)

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

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!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 9:15 am in the lounge every Sunday.

CHILDREN AGES 3 THROUGH 5TH GRADE will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (JAM Room).

2ND YEAR CATECHISM CLASSES: Second year class will meet every other Sunday at 11:45 am.

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn “O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True” No. 675

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.

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:

Hymn “We are Baptized in Christ Jesus” No. 451

Greeting

P: The grace given to us in Christ Jesus, the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, and the power of God who calls us with a holy purpose be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one□ sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across.

⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12— Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

5 For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

**6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

7 On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**8 Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.**

9 Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

**10 Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

11 Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
**12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all
according to their work.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to Mark Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

No.588

The Offering

Offertory Music

"Come to the Water"

FSJ Chancel Choir

Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

P: Merciful God,

C: Receive 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.

Litany for Blessing Our Families

P: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

C: My soul longs for the courts of the Lord, my heart sings for joy to the living God.

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest where she may keep her young.

C: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

P: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

P: Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and friends,

C: aunts, uncles, sons, and daughters,

P: People who reach out to nurture and love,

C: people who live by water and word –

P: God adopts us and names us and claims us.

C: God renews us, uplifts and restores us.

P: Generations from Abraham to David to Joseph,

C: to Jesus, son of Mary, Son of God;

P: Our generations too, and all those to come:

C: We are joined in the family of God.

P: O God for whom we long, we thank you for the gift of family and friends. Strengthen the ties that bind us together, that we may sing the song of Mary:

C: “My soul magnifies you, and holy is your name. You shower mercy from generation to generation.”

P: We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift to all the world.

C: Amen.

(The elders will direct families by pew to come forward to the altar to receive a blessing. After everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues as the congregation stands.)

P: Let us pray. Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of husbands and wives to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness; pour out your Spirit on parents, that through them children may experience your unconditional love; and empower all family members to live in your grace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, (✠) bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

No.661

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BAPTISM INSERTS IN THE
PLASTIC BINS LOCATED AT THE FRONT AND REAR OF
THE CHURCH FOR RE-USE. THANK YOU!

+++++

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

ELDERS

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

READER

Toni Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

SERMON NOTES:



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES of Northwestern Ohio

Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit

We once again will be participating in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio's Food Pantry. The local Toledo food pantry distributes food to those in need every Tuesday and Thursday each month.

We will be collecting items for the pantry and also monetary donations. Every dollar donated will go directly to the purchase of food for the pantry!

Food Pantry Wishlist

- Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Spam)
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Soup, Ravioli, Chili, Beef Stew
- Juice (46 or 64 oz.—plastic bottles only)
- Ramen
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Oatmeal or Grits
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce (Marinara or Alfredo)
- Ketchup, Mayo, Mustard
- Cake or Brownie Mixes and Frosting
- Cereal Bars
- Jelly

Grocery Carts are available for your food donations, and a soup pot is in the Narthex (lobby) to collect monetary donations. You can also donate directly to LSS by using the pink envelopes in the pew and placing in the offering plate. Please write "LSS food pantry" in the memo line. This will be our ministry focus for January and February. Please plan to participate!

Visit **www.lssnwo.org** for more info.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY URGENT NEEDS!

We are running low on many items.

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.



January 21, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

A Compelling Invitation

The word of God is powerful. When Jesus speaks, things happen. Early in his ministry, Jesus summoned ordinary persons to follow him. His inviting and compelling word, "follow me," produced immediate results. We are told not once, but twice, that Simon, Andrew, James, and John left their nets "immediately" and followed Jesus.

If we hear the powerful call of Jesus, what happens next is clear. Our lives are taken over by Christ completely. The disciples did not "find" Jesus. He came to them. Jesus took the initiative. They were simply minding their own business until Jesus came and made his business their business.

Jesus' business is challenging. It is the proclamation of good news in the face of hostile forces (as John the Baptist's arrest reminds us). Christians can expect obstacles and resistance. Too many Christians are unmindful of the long hours and persistent attempts that fishing for people demands. Jesus does not call his disciples to a Sunday afternoon stroll down Easy Street. He invites them to an all-out effort in God's new way of doing things.

Jesus thought God's new way was worth dying for. The message of the kingdom took him to his death upon the cross. And that's where his summons will take us too. "Follow me," Jesus said to his disciples, like a Red Cross worker on the front lines. "Follow me in a ministry of love and grace to the war-torn places where human hate and hurtfulness are stubbornly dug in. Follow me to the cross. I am calling you. You are invited! You!"

This is frontline duty that has its risks and dangers--a cross among them. But it also has its rewards: inclusion in God's kingdom and the company of Christ . . . forever.