

HONORING OUR *Graduates*

GROW IN THE GRACE AND
KNOWLEDGE OF OUR
LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST.

2 PETER 3:18 (NIV*)



June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Through the Summer months we offer one 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. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

SMILE! YOUR 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ring of the Bell (Please Stand)

Opening Hymn “As Rain from the Clouds” No.504

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

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:

“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: Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We’d expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It’s not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody’s looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah’s royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple

²²Thus says the Lord God:
I myself will take a sprig

from the lofty top of a cedar;
 I will set it out.
 I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
 I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.
²³On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
 in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
 Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.
²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
 that I am the Lord.
 I bring low the high tree,
 I make high the low tree;
 I dry up the green tree
 and make the dry tree flourish.
 I the Lord have spoken;
 I will accomplish it.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 - Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
 to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
² **to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
 and your faithfulness by night,**
³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
 to the melody of the lyre.
⁴ **For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
 at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**
¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
 and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
¹³ **They are planted in the house of the LORD;
 they flourish in the courts of our God.**
¹⁴ In old age they still produce fruit;
 they are always green and full of sap,
¹⁵ **showing that the LORD is upright;
 he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of c - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark chapter 4.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

No.679

(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

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Our generous heavenly Father, all good gifts come from you and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need, through our resurrected and living Lord, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

GRADUATE RECOGNITION - *Presentation of graduates and the Dave Winslow Memorial Scholarship Winners. Please follow the liturgy below making the responses for the congregation. Graduate bios are on page 14 and 15.*

A Litany of Thanks for Graduates

P: Dear Lord, we thank You for blessing these graduates with the gift of education. We thank You for their achievements and ask You to be with them as they take the next steps in their lives. As they do, Lord, we ask You to give them wisdom. In Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

(To the graduates.)

P: Graduates, let the words of the Lord in Proverbs 3 speak to you today. The Lord says, "Do not forget My teaching, but let your heart keep My commandments." (v. 1)

C: "For the length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you." (v. 2)

P: "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart." (v. 3)

C: "So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and of people." (v. 4)

P: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." (v. 6)

C: "Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your body." (vs. 7, 8)

P: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce;" (v. 9) Do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof," (v. 11) "for the Lord reproves the one whom He loves, as a father does the child in whom he delights." (v. 12)

C: Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding." (v. 13)

P: Let us pray. Lord God, we commend these young people to Your care, asking You in all things to watch over them and to keep them in Your grace in Christ Jesus.

C: Help them when they share their troubles with You. Hear and bless them when they ask for Your help and guidance.

P: Help them to be strong in their faith in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again so that we may know the Father's love and live in the Father's grace. "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2). Remember God's love.

C: Remember our love and support for you our sisters and brothers in the family of God.

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Graduates: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

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:



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. 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."

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

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show our love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation..

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"* No. 551

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

+ + + + + + + + +

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

READER

Toni Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

+ + + + + + + + +

*Congratulations to our 2024 graduates,
and Happy Father's Day to all the dads,
grandfathers, and men who have been
an influence to the children in their lives.
May God continue to bless you!*

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		

**denotes high need item*

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.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION— 2024



April Church

Clay High School

April is a 2024 graduate of Clay High School in Oregon, Ohio. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with her honor's diploma and also was the recipient of the Presidential Award. She was a member and officer in the National Honor Society where she was recognized for over 100 hours of community service. She was also one of our two recipients of the Dave Winslow Memorial Scholarship. April is the daughter of Roger and Kathy Church.

FUTURE PLANS: April will be attending The University of Akron this fall in the Williams Honor College, studying Biomedical Engineering.

Barry James Layman II

Waite High School

Barry is a 2024 graduate of Morrison R. Waite High School in Toledo, Ohio. He graduated top 15 in his class, and will be the first minor to join Local 351. He will also be a speaker at an upcoming union graduation. He was a recipient of a \$3500 Scholarship from Waite High School and refereed baseball and softball the last two years in Findlay, Ohio. Barry is the son of Barry and Michelle Layman and the grandson of Sue Ann Rogers.

FUTURE PLANS: Barry plans to continue to pursue a career as a union carpenter and work for Rudolph/Libbe.

Emily Lipper

Toledo School for the Arts

Emily is a 2024 graduate of Toledo School for the Arts in Toledo, Ohio. Emily participated in Carnegie Hall's NYO2, NAFME All-National Symphony Orchestra, and was a part of the OMEA All-State Orchestra. She is the daughter of Jamie and Beth Lipper.

FUTURE PLANS: Emily plans to attend the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in the Fall for Trumpet Performance.

Jamie Lipper

Clay High School

Jamie is a 2024 graduate of Clay High School in Oregon, Ohio and was ranked 7th in his graduating class. He also graduated from the University of Toledo with an Associates Degree a month prior from graduating from Clay High School. Jamie is the son of Jamie and Beth Lipper.

FUTURE PLANS: Jamie plans to continue to attend the University of Toledo.

Courtney Miller

Clay High School

Courtney is a 2024 graduate of Clay High School in Oregon, Ohio. Courtney earned the Oregon City Schools Director Award from the Career and Technology program. This award is given to one student for exemplary and selfless giving of their time and talents. She is currently working this summer as an aide at First St. John Day School. She is also one of our two recipients of the Dave Winslow Memorial Scholarship. Courtney is the daughter of Matt and Jessica Miller.

FUTURE PLANS: Courtney plans to attend Owens Community College in the Fall and is enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program and will complete her degree at Bowling Green State University.

Jersey L. Schumaker

Eastwood High School

Jersey is a 2024 graduate of Eastwood High School in Pemberville, Ohio where she received her Honors Diploma. She played four years of Volleyball and was a member of FCA, FFA & Key Club. Jersey is the daughter of Brian and Angela Schumaker.

FUTURE PLANS: Jersey plans to attend The Ohio State University and major in Biological Science/Pediatric Medicine.

*Congratulations
to our graduates!*

A Peaceful Sleep

Summertime can bring some of our most violent storms; evening cool hits daytime heat and the ominous clouds lead us to check storm warnings on TV. Strong claps of thunder and flashes of lightning can startle us right out of bed, shuffling to check open windows, make sure pets or children are tucked in, wonder whether to move plants or yard furniture out of harm's way. It's hard to sleep peacefully through the anxiety a storm can bring.

But Jesus does it! It's a "great windstorm," a terrible, furious, violent storm. The disciples would not have needed a warning siren to know their boat should clearly have been headed ashore for safety. They were afraid, so afraid that they woke Jesus up--Jesus, don't you care that we're dying here?

When we question whether God just sleeps through our pain and anxiety, this passage might seem to confirm our isolation. But Jesus can sleep because of the gift he possesses, a gift he shares: peace. Stillness. Calm.

Who can be this calm during a terrible storm? The one who was there at the beginning when the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters, the one who kept Noah safe through the flood, the one who gave the enslaved Israelites their escape through the Red Sea, the one who was baptized in the Jordan and saw the heavens torn apart, the one who had blood and water pour from his wounded side.

Is your summer vacation anything but a vacation? To a world longing for inner peace, seeking it in books and spa treatments and scented candles, the answer comes from one undaunted by anything the earth offers. Even death holds no fear because he has turned it upside down and given us eternal life. Let us sleep then in the peace of Christ.