

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

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[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

**September 15, 2024**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism (starting soon). 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
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](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.

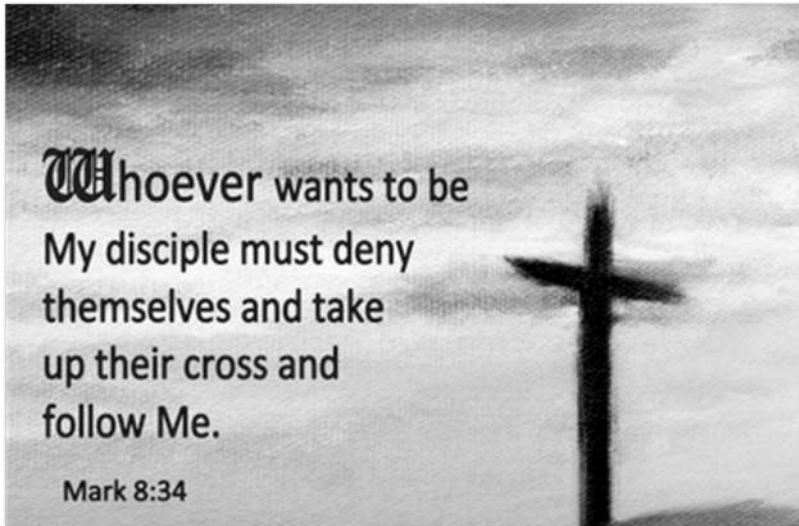
**NURSERY** is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

**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.

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP—8:00 am and 10:30am**

**Prelude** Dr. Anthony Pattin

**Ringling of the Bell**  
(Please Stand)

**Opening Hymn** “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” No.324

**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, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

Three weeks ago we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9** Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> **Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**

<sup>5</sup> Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD protects the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

<sup>7</sup> Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

<sup>8</sup> **For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling.**

<sup>9</sup> I walk before the LORD  
in the land of the living.

### **SECOND READING: James 3:1-12**

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

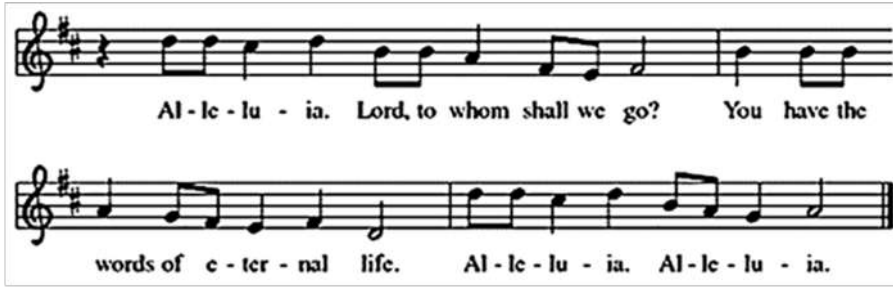
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 8.

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

### **GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

*This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

## Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON** *"They Took Up Their Crosses and Followed Jesus"*

Bob Haar

### Sermon Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

No. 660

*(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.

*(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.**

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

P: Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

**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.

**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** "Lord Speak to Us that We May Speak" No.676

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**ELDERS**

Early Service - Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

Late Service - Dick Haar, John Roth

**READER**

Early Service - Lisa Anderson

Late Service - Carol Haar

# MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

## First St. John Day School



**Our monthly ministry outreach for September will be our very own, First St. John Day School Scholarship fund!**

FSJ Lutheran Day School & Child Care Center is a ministry of First St. John Lutheran Church. In cooperation with the congregation and community families, we strive to prepare our students for the academic, social, intellectual, and spiritual challenges they will face as they grow and mature. We recognize that it is a responsibility and a privilege to be entrusted by God and our school families to help guide and develop the character of each student. We believe that each child was born with a unique gift from God and that his/her needs should be met at his/her level of development.

*To support this effort, please place your check in the yellow envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office at 2471 Seaman St, Toledo, OH 43605.*

Also, make sure to join us at the 10:30 am service on September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the blessing of the backpacks and to hear the children of the Day School sing!



# PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY URGENT NEEDS!

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 | toothpaste, child      | toothbrush, child  |

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.

\*denotes high need items for this month



## Image Is Everything

Even with a healthy self-image, our insecurities get expressed in all kinds of ways. Who among us doesn't have our share of doubts and concerns about our looks, abilities, or personalities? Many of us, though, are so concerned what other people think of us that we are unable truly to be ourselves. Our society would have us believe that our worth is determined by the image we project of ourselves. Get a beauty or fashion makeover, a physical exercise makeover, a personal growth makeover, a spiritual makeover, and then we will be transformed.

Jesus seemed not to be overly concerned with what people thought of him. He was willing to do or say the unpopular thing. Centered in his relationship with God, he was able to love and serve freely, finding his life through losing it for the sake of others.

Jesus speaks of a suffering Messiah that must die and rise, but Peter cannot handle such a concept. Jesus goes on to give the disciples their radical call: if you want to be a disciple, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow. You will save your life through losing it.

Such a denial of self begins with humility, admitting that we do not have all the answers. It could also cause us to stand with those who are poor, marginalized, and in need as Jesus did. But does it lead to a still worse self-image? No. Rather, we base our self-image not on what others think of us, but on God's unconditional love and grace.

The image marked on our brow at baptism is a cross, a sign of God's never-ending love. It is also an image of contradiction. Life comes through death. We find our true selves not through grasping, but through surrender. God strengthens us to take up the cross, make the hard choices, and live the radical life of the gospel.