

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



September 22, 2024

18th 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. 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 JAM Sunday School (church basement) and Adult Sunday School (lounge) meet each Sunday at 9:15 am. First year catechism will start soon! If you have a child in 6-7th grade interested please let Pastor Rayl know.

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. We are currently looking to re-start a nursery in the next month or so with workers to accommodate those who have small children. Stay tuned!

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)

Welcome to Worship Pastor Rayl

Opening Song “Jesus Loves Me” No. 595

Opening Dialogue (congregation responds in **BOLD**)

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. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to
yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside
all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of
wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Day School Kids Sing

“B-I-B-L-E”
“Bigger Than Big”
“He’s got the Whole World in His Hands”

Children’s Message

Pastor Rayl

Introduction

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the
disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells
them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he
puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to
welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them
in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the
assembly.

PSALM: Psalm 1 (congregation responds in **BOLD**)

¹ Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² **but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ **The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ **for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING: James 3:13-18, 4:7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.⁴

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

Pastor Rayl

Message Hymn "Children Of The Heavenly Father"

No. 781

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

Dr. Anthony 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.

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. These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be read and studied, notes, permission slips, things to be shared, along with notebooks, pencils, pens crayons, glue sticks 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 the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

P: God of all knowledge and wisdom,
Bless these backpacks and each student that will carry them very day of this school year.

As students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each day. Help them to do their best, guide them to make right choices, and remind them that your love and presence are always with them. Fill them with curiosity, understanding, respect for their teachers, and care and compassion for other

We give thanks for teachers, administrators, and staff that work with children each day Bless the briefcases and totes of the teachers and administrators and schools throughout our city, our nation, and our world. May these teachers and staff be reminded that this congregation supports them in their roles, and surrounds them with our love and care. Give them patience and strength to never give up, and assurance that you are always with them.

In your love and mercy, surround our children and our schools with your protection that they may be safe places for all who enter. We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day.

C: Amen.

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?
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 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.

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: 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 “Go My Children With My Blessing” No. 840

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

JESUS AND ME (JAM) AND ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Bob Haar	Adult Sunday School
Sue Ann Rogers	3-Year Olds & Preschool
Debbie Ladd	1-2 Grade School
Darlene Paul	3, 4, 5th Grade School
Courtney Miller	Music Coordinator

First Year Catechism Classes

Pastor Rayl

DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Andrea Buckley	Administrator
Michelle Swank	Beginnergarten Teacher
Angel Brown	Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF
Dawn Irelan	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
Marie Ivan	Aide—All Preschool Classes
Courtney Miller	Aide—All Preschool Classes
Emily Brown	Aide—All Classes
Shela Stringham	Day School Cook

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Bob Hecklinger

READERS

Bob Kinsey

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

ALL CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH AND DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE INVITED AFTER THE SERVICE TO JOIN US IN THE LOUNGE FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATIONAL AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS!



September 22, 2024

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Learning Curve

Each year autumn signals the return to school for both teachers and students. Most adults feel that their prime learning days are over when they finish high school, college, or graduate school. In the church many of us feel that when we are confirmed as teenagers we are done learning, that we "know" what we need to know. Yet defining our faith as "knowing" may be a problem, for the questions may be as important as the answers.

In today's gospel the disciples have a major learning block. Jesus is trying to instruct them in the meaning of his death and what it means to follow in the path of discipleship. They simply do not get it. Instead, they want to know which one among them is greatest and ranks highest in the categories of status and prestige.

Jesus throws a curve ball at the disciples. As they are arguing about who is greatest, Jesus places a child in their midst. Unlike the ways we dote on children today, in Jesus' day children had no status at all. Jesus says that to welcome children is to welcome all those who are on the margins or who are excluded, and in welcoming them we welcome God among us.

If children are our models and teachers, we are able to be comfortable with all that we do not know, rather than proving all that we do know. Learning information does not seem as important as learning wonder, praise, and gratitude.

This day God welcomes all of us, especially the children and those who do not seem to have a place in our very know-it-all world. Let us not only welcome the children, but let us become the very ones whose minds and hearts are open to learn and explore more deeply our call to follow Christ. For through our baptism we are all children of God.