

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community
January 26, 2025 - 10:30 am

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3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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 Sunday School
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 now available during 2nd Service each week; you are welcome to sit with your child as well. 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

Ringling of the Bell
(Please Stand)

Opening Hymn “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” No.886

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

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. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

God’s glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God’s glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the

sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19 — Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴ **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,

making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

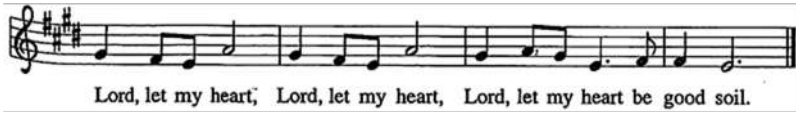
(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 4.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"O Zion, Haste"

No. 668

(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.

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.**

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: 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: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

(Please be seated)

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: Generous God we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, (☩) bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, John Roth

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges



**MONTHLY MINISTRY
FOCUS:
ISAIAH 117 HOUSE**

“Changing how Foster Care Begins”

This month’s monthly ministry focus will again be the Isaiah 117 House in Lucas County. The Isaiah 117 project exists to reduce trauma on removal day for children who are being placed in the foster care system. The house helps lighten the load for caseworkers and ease transition into foster care by creating a ‘home’ environment where children on removal day can go instead of an office while caseworkers work on placement. This home provides the comforts of home and lessens the impact.

Even better, an Isaiah 117 home is planned for Oregon / East Toledo! Genacross Lutheran Services has donated a half-acre of land in Oregon, Ohio, and the surveying of the land is being donated. The general contractor, Jim Moline with Moline Builders is actively reaching out to suppliers and subcontractors. But, we need your help! FSJ is joining other Lutheran churches in the area on taking up a collection to help fund the home’s creation. Please consider donating by placing your offering in the yellow envelopes in your pew during offering.

January 26, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Christ's Shocking Gospel

Jesus read from Isaiah in today's gospel, and declared that he was the fulfillment of that scripture. This is nothing new to us. We know the scripture and we can cite many examples of the good news he brought.

Jesus' listeners were also familiar with Isaiah's prophecy, and would have welcomed its fulfillment, but they might have been shocked had they fully understood the meaning that Jesus brought to it. The poor to whom Jesus brought good news were not just the Jews suffering under Roman oppression. Jesus offered salvation to prostitutes, criminals, and Gentiles. The good news was not that those who had followed the law would have victory over their oppressors. Instead, all believers could celebrate a victory of life over death.

We understand this message, but it is no less radical today. In many ways, our society is still hostile to the good news. Amid incredible wealth and nearly unlimited potential, too many live in poverty, too many are captive to violence, too many are oppressed by hatred. Attempts to address these problems may be dismissed as impractical, or more than the suffering deserve. We rightly value independence. But caring communities and supportive relationships require *interdependence*, and that can be difficult to accept.

We are led, however, neither by the norms of society, nor the expectations of our family and friends. The Spirit of the Lord is on us, as it was on Jesus and on Isaiah before him, enabling us to preach the good news. We follow Christ's example, assured that though the work may not always be easy, the Lord's favor will be with us.