

First St. John Lutheran Church

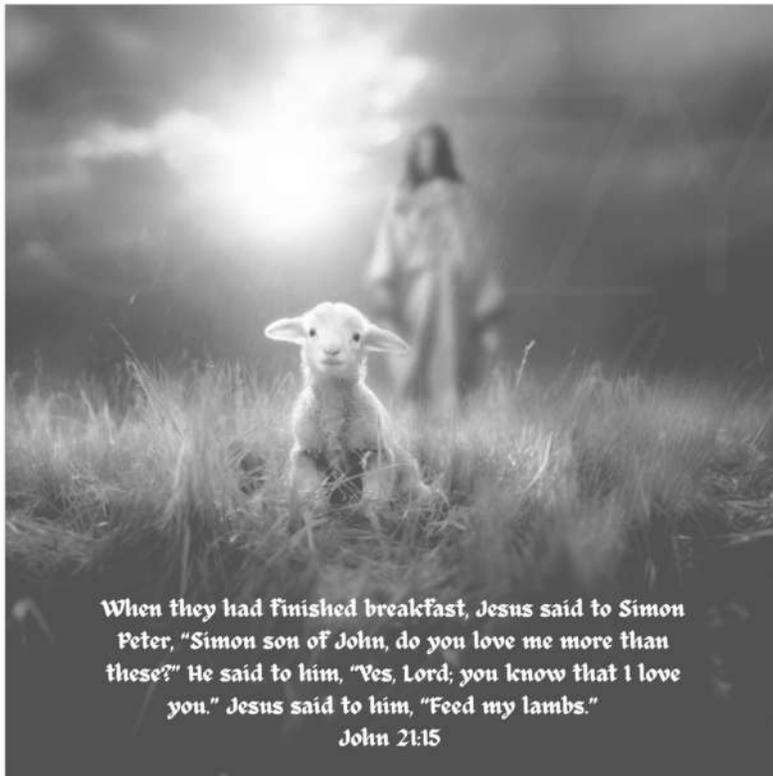
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www.firststjohn.com

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

May 4, 2025 - 10:30 am

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Third Sunday of Easter

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

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn “Lord God, We Praise Your Name” No. 558

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

(The water is poured into the baptismal fount.)

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

P: We give your thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.

Hymn “We are Baptized in Christ Jesus” v. 1-2 No. 451
(printed below)

We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death; that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life. And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his, we will all be reunited, for he lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread, in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead, God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past; in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

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:

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one; as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again in a song that has no ending. Amen

The Greeting and Prayer

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me?

And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-9

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 30 — Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

²**O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

³O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

⁴**Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.**

⁵For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

⁶**As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."**

⁷By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

⁸**To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:**

⁹"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!**

O LORD, be my helper!"

¹¹You have turned my mourning into dancing;

you have taken off my sackcloth

and clothed me with joy,

¹²**so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.**

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

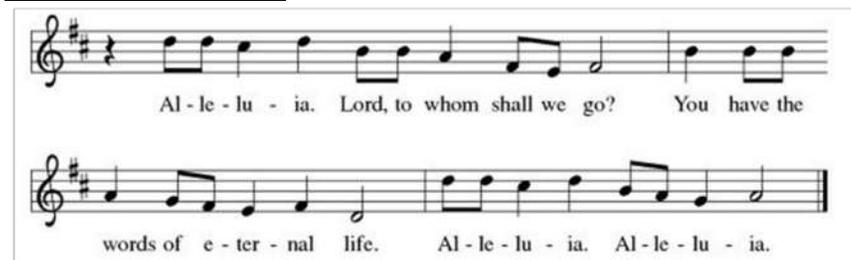
¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(sung by the congregation)*



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. John Chapter 21.

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

GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not

wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"At the Lambs High Feast We Sing"
(vs. 1-4)

No. 362

(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

Musical Offertory

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

C: **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, O Lord,

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: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and
to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, (□) Son, and
Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "At the Lambs High Feast We Sing" No. 362
(vs. 5-8)

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Kevin Ruedy
Mike Winslow

READER

Toni Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**

June 15, 2025



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 15th. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Monday, June 2nd.

NAME OF GRADUATE _____

GRADUATED FROM _____

DEGREE EARNED _____

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE: _____

A NEW WAY TO GIVE AT FSJ!

We now offer an even easier way to tithe or give to First St. John. You can now scan the QR code below or go to:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/YKCE/home>
To setup one-time, or regularly scheduled offerings and designate your gifts to specific funds.

You can also download the FREE Vanco Mobile App available for Apple and Android phones. Follow the instructions in the app to set-up your offering with First St. John.

Don't worry! We still will continue to accept offerings in forms of cash or check in the offering plate or mailed to the church office: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, Ohio 43605.



ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR code
or
go to



May 4, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fire of Shame, Fire of Love

The disciples know Jesus is risen, but they don't yet know what they are to do. They fall back on fishing, one thing they knew how to do before they ever met Jesus, but they fail even at that. Only when Jesus comes to them and directs them where to fish do they get a huge catch. Meanwhile, he cooks breakfast for them, baking bread and grilling fish on the beach.

Jesus asks Peter the same question three times: "Do you love me?" This thrice-repeated query raises the haunting specter of Peter's thrice-repeated denial of Jesus some days earlier. Jesus simultaneously reminds Peter of his failure and offers him an opportunity for repentance and recommitment. Jesus then tells Peter how to put his love into action now that Jesus has died and risen: Care for the Good Shepherd's flock.

We need to keep the whole story together. Before Peter is questioned and reminded of how he failed Jesus, he sees his failures redeemed. A night of fruitless fishing ends with a net-breakingly large catch. Jesus invites his friends to a breakfast of bread and fish they didn't even have to catch. Here is a charcoal fire, baking bread and roasting fish, a meal of grace. When Peter denied Jesus, he and the slaves and police were standing around another charcoal fire. The fire of Peter's shame and failure is now transformed into a place to prepare a meal of friendship and new life.

We come to the table and find that our failures do not keep us from God. God spreads the table before us with food we did not have to find, or earn, or prepare. We experience our burning shame transformed into a place where Christ meets us in friendship *before* he asks whether we love him. Fed with such grace, we, like Peter, can feed Jesus' sheep.