

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



**July 13, 2025**

**Fifth 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](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!

**NURSERY** is not monitored during the summer months but you are welcome to sit with your child downstairs as needed. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church. A

**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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*Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community*

**July 13, 2025 - 9:00 am**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Nancy Russell

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn “As we Gather at Your Table” No. 522

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through faith. In the cross of † Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**C: 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. O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### Announcements

#### Introduction

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God’s mercy in responding to one’s neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the “gospel that has come to you”—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

#### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God’s commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people’s hearts.*

<sup>9</sup> The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors,<sup>10</sup> when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away.<sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear

it and observe it?' <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10** Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup> **Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup> **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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. Luke Chapter 10.

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

### 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 God of Love, O King of Peace” No. 749

*(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 Lord,

**C: your mercy is great.**

*(Please be seated)*

### The Offering

### Musical Offertory

Nancy Russell

### Offering Prayer

P: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as your were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

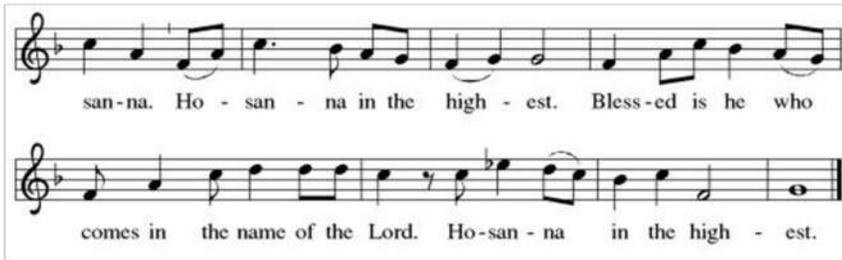
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

P: Hear us as we 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: The risen Christ invites us to this table.

**C: Come, eat and be satisfied.**

*(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: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: 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**

*"God of the Sparrow"*

No. 740

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Nancy Russell

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Bill Nelson  
Matt Miller

**READER**

Susie Purewal

**SOUND BOARD**

Amy Nelson



**U.S. FLOODING**  
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

ELCA.org/flooding

In the face of disaster, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow.

Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in the United States. Across the country, we support communities as they recover from devastating floodwaters. LDR works with synods and partners to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery (including disaster case management and meeting unmet needs), and provide educational training for synods and partners in affected regions.

Lutheran Disaster Response works through strong partnerships with ELCA synods, congregations and other organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to LDR support our church's work to share healing and renewal with people who lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

**YES, I WANT TO HELP!**

- Lutheran Disaster Response \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0060
- U.S. Flooding \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0069

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Scan to give online



Give through your congregation, by phone (800-638-3522) or by mail. Checks or money orders can be mailed to **Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

BI-LDRFLOOD25

*JULY 13, 2025*

*FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

**Helping Your Neighbor**

The question asked in today's gospel story is very significant for our twenty-first century world: Who is my neighbor?

Animosity between people has existed throughout human history. A natural human response when threatened is to turn inward toward what is familiar and toward those who share a common identity. In order to guard ourselves against the unknown we tend quickly to draw lines of distinction that identify us by our family, nation, religion, or ethnicity. Those like us are our neighbors.

But the gospel for this Lord's day calls us to redefine what it means to be a neighbor. A neighbor is not merely the person next door who can be trusted with a key to our home or the one who sits next to us at church. Jesus shows us that a neighbor is anyone who helps another human being in need. This leads to surprising opportunities.

In the story, the identity of the man who was beaten and left half dead is not specified. He is a human being who was victimized by robbers. Jesus does not explain why the priest and Levite did not stop to help him. When the surprising opportunity to be a neighbor to this man in need presented itself, they chose to pass by on the other side. Instead, it was a Samaritan, an outsider whose religion was considered impure by many of Jesus' contemporaries, who stopped to help the man in need. This outsider became Jesus' example of what it means to be a neighbor.

As we walk the pathways of our daily lives during this coming week we too may be surprised by opportunities to be a neighbor to another human being who is in need. Jesus points us to the good Samaritan and says, "Go and do likewise."