

First St. John Lutheran Church

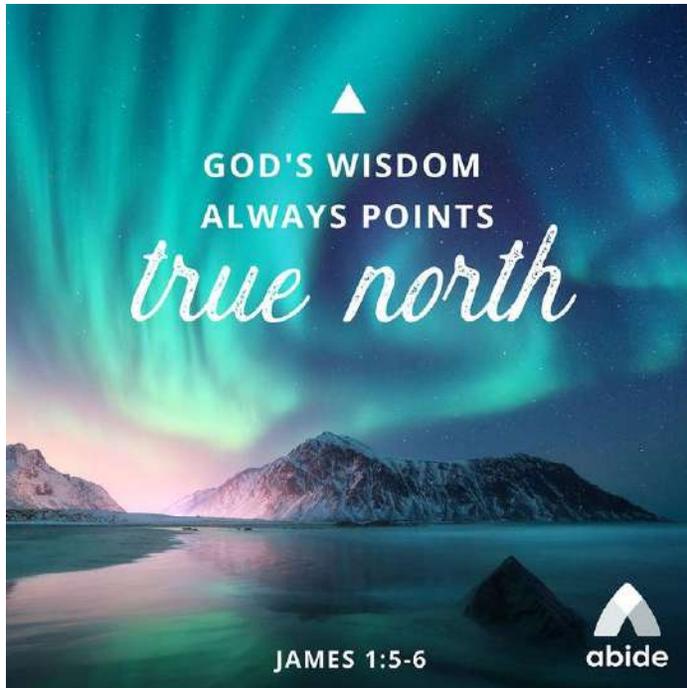
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www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Director of Music
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager



July 20, 2025

Sixth 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. 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.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

July 20, 2025 - 9:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Les Talley
Ringing of the Bell
Opening Hymn “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” No. 632

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. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

VBS KIDS SING

*“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”
“Hey, Hey, Hey!”*

Introduction

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷

Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers— all things have been created through him and for him.¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him,²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.²⁵ I became its minister according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints.²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ It is he whom we

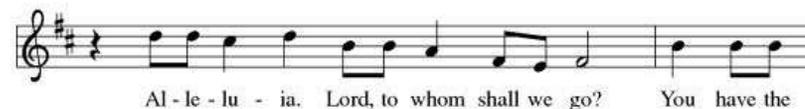
proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(sung by the congregation)*



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying.⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.”⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things,⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

No. 836

(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

Les Talley

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 -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

No. 537

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Les Talley

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

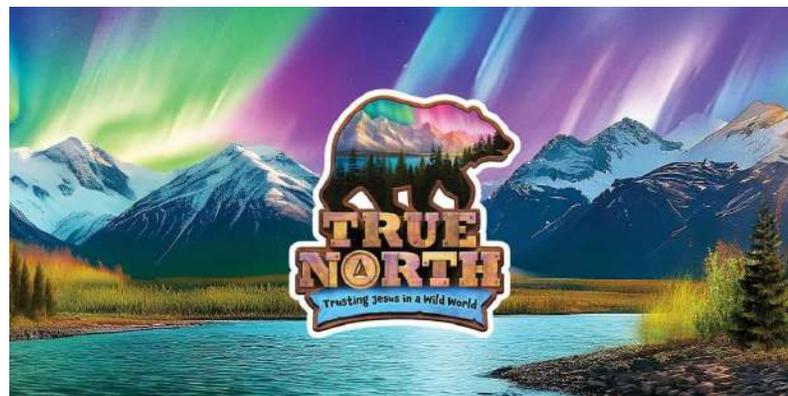
Bob Haar
Sherrie Haar

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges



A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the First St John family and friends who made this year's VBS a great success! Thank you for your donations of items, time, and funds that helped us create a wonderful God-filled week for the kids of FSJ and our community!



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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

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 20, 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Listen!

Today we meet two sisters who were friends of Jesus. He was a guest at their home. As we come to worship today, Mary and Martha model two ways of being in the presence of the Lord.

Mary sat at the feet of Jesus as his student. She was so engrossed in what he was saying that she left her sister Martha to do all the work.

An important guest had come to their home. Showing proper hospitality would include providing water to wash the guests' feet, oil to cleanse their skin, food and drink to refresh them, and a comfortable space for all to relax and share conversation. Martha made these things happen. While Martha attended to these tasks, Mary simply sat at Jesus' feet and soaked in his grace-filled words. It made Martha a bit angry. Finally, she asked Jesus to tell Mary to get up and share in the work.

Like Martha, as we come to be in the presence of our Lord, we might be distracted by many things. It may be difficult to separate ourselves from all of the good things we have been or could be doing. It may be even more difficult to put aside worries or hurts that keep us from enjoying God's presence. We need to know that we are not imprisoned by our busy-ness or fears but set free to rest in the presence of the one who says, "You are a child of God." There is a time to get out of the kitchen, time to lay aside our anxieties, and just sit in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many things are important; many are worthwhile. But Jesus reminds us there is need of only one thing, the grace of God given us by Christ. Like Mary, we can choose the better part, which will not be taken away from us.