

First St. John Lutheran Church

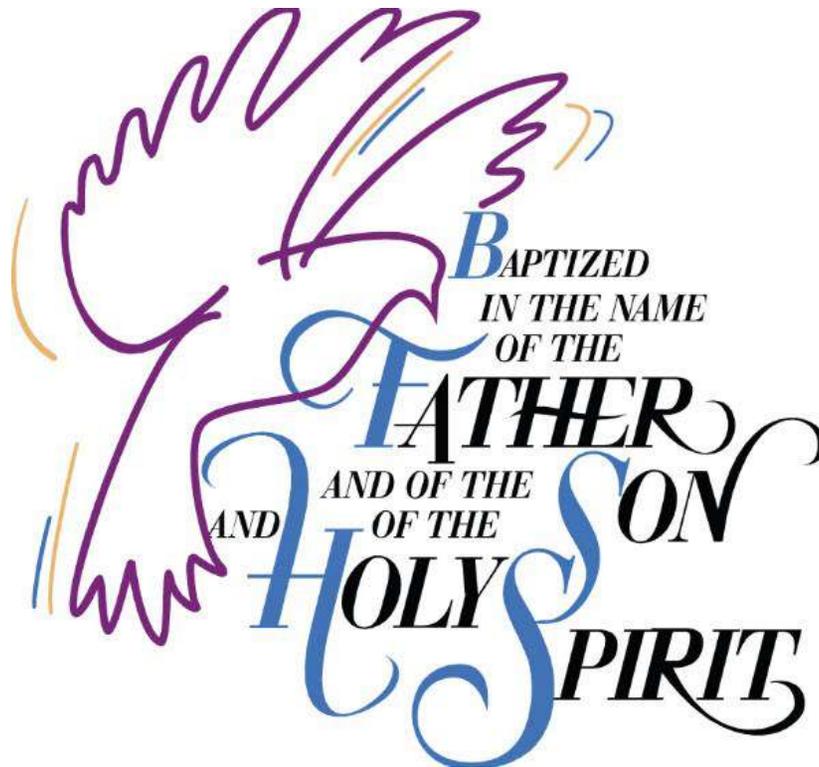
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



August 17, 2025

Tenth 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.

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

August 17, 2025 - 9:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude "Nocturne"
Lesli McCage-Simmons violin
Dr. Anthony Pattin, piano

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn "Borning Cry" No. 732

Rite of Holy Baptism

(Please use insert in the bulletin and make responses as indicated)

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 God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Special Music

"Andante" *Brahms*
(from Sonata in F minor)
Lesli McCage-Simmons, clarinet

Introduction

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82 Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹ God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah**

³ Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

**4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”**

5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

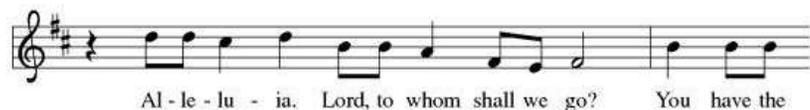
**6 I say, “You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;**

7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like any prince.”

**8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!**

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(sung by the congregation)*



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 12.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God’s call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²

From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west,

you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

No. 733

(Please stand)

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

“Hymn Trilogy”

Pinkston/Callahan

Offering Prayer

P: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you 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.**

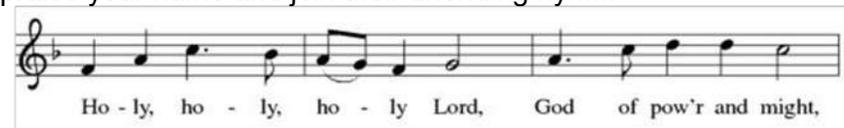
P: Lift up your hearts.

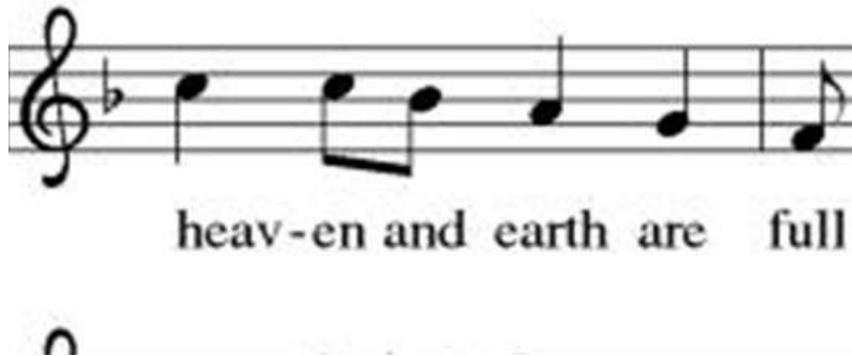
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
 We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
 Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.
C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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. 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: Lord 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: The risen Christ invites us to this table.
C: Come, eat and be satisfied.

Communion Music "O Divine Redeemer" Gounod
 Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, vocals
(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: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

Blessing

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" No. 767

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS
 Dick Haar
 Matt Miller

READER
 Lisa Anderson

SOUND BOARD
 Amy Nelson

Please Welcome Special Guest, Lesli McCage Simmons, Clarinet



A native southerner, Lesli has been a part of the music scene in Toledo since 2001. She has performed with the Toledo Symphony, Sono NovoChamber Orchestra, Ballet Theatre of Toledo, as well as other regional orchestras and organizations. She received her formal training at the University of Montevallo and the University of Alabama. She is currently on the University of Toledo faculty. In addition to her appearance in today's worship service, she will be heard this Tuesday @ 1 p.m. in concert along with Dr. Pattin on piano, and soprano Dr. Carol Dusdiekfier. Please make plans to attend!

PLEASE WELCOME LESLI TO FSJ!



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



www.firststjohn.com

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY URGENT NEEDS!

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap*	shampoo, child	disposable razors
paper towel*	laundry soap*	toothbrush, adult
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	toothpaste, adult
tissues	body lotion*	sanitary pads*
deodorant	body soap*	band aids
shampoo, adult		

*denotes high need item

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members.

If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month. If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



AUGUST 17, 2025 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Not the Jesus I Know?

When we hear Jesus ask, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?" and then his answer, "No, I tell you, but rather division!" we are tempted to say, "That doesn't sound like the Jesus I know!"

The prophet Jeremiah anticipated this accent in the voice of the Word made flesh. He wrote: "Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" (Jer. 23:29). "I came to bring fire to the earth," Jesus says.

These words *about* Jesus, spoken *by* Jesus, are all about the difference his living, dying, and rising can make in our lives. As fearsome as these fiery words may be, they cast light into the dark corners of our lives. If the death and resurrection of Jesus doesn't make a significant difference in our thinking, doing, and being, then we are missing the mark and missing the point of it all. In other words, when it comes to living life in Christ, lukewarm won't do. Remember the warning in Revelation 3:15-16? God says, "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. . . . So because you are lukewarm . . . I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

There is no halfway with Christ Jesus. For him it was the cross or nothing. His was a baptism by fire for us and for our salvation. For us there ought be no halfway in Christ Jesus. We are in or we are out. We are for him or against him.

Let the fire in Jesus' voice rekindle the fire in your heart. Let the love in Jesus' voice increase in you the love of God and love of neighbor.