

First St. John Lutheran Church

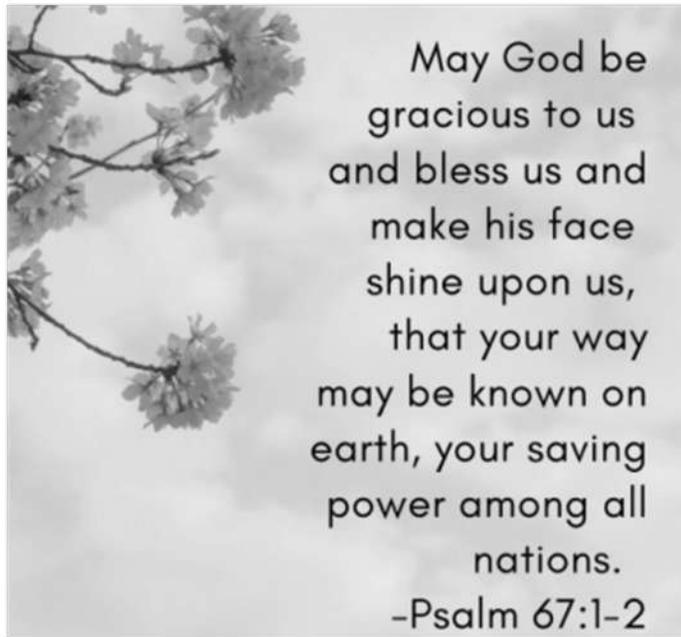
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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
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!

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. Nursery will restart during the 2nd service on Sunday, September 14, 2025.

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

September 7, 2025 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

No. 595

Invocation

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

C: And also with you.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

Passing of the Peace which concludes by singing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. God of all people, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Day School Kids Sing

*Good Morning Lord
Jesus Loves Me
Light of the World
Awesome God*

Installation of Day School Staff and Teachers

P: For the marvels of your creation,

C: we praise you, O God.

P: For the opportunity to explore and study, grow and learn,

C: we praise you, God.

P: For those who guide us: teachers, helpers, administrators and parents,

C: we praise you, God.

P: Teach us your ways and guide us in your paths, for you are the creator of all that is, seen and unseen.

C: Great and loving God, give us your blessing now.

(Day School and Sunday School (J.A.M.) staff and teachers are introduced and come forward for their installation)

P: As we continue to welcome children by providing for their needs,

Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.

P: As we work for incorporation of our Day School programs and families,

Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.

P: As we nurture children so they can develop into persons you intend them to be.

Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.

P: As we send children on their way with your love and blessings,

Staff: Empower us, Jesus, to be more like you.

P: As we are empowered to carry out this ministry,

Staff: Thank you, Lord Jesus!

P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of teachers and administrators of the First St. John Lutheran Educational Ministries to which you have been called?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these fellow children of God, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

P: I now declare you installed as teachers and administrators of the Educational Ministries of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray. We rejoice in our ministry together and give thanks for all who work to make our Day School ministry a special place for children. Today we say thank you for giving us loving partners with our congregation who care for children, who teach children, who learn with children, and who are examples of your love to children. We celebrate the joy of learning and growing at our First St. John Lutheran Day School.

C: Amen.

Service of the Word of God

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Whereas the Israelite community, defined by early legal traditions, was expected to live the righteous and obedient life, the prophet now announces that righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community. In other words, commitment to the Lord makes a person a member of God's people—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant--

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67 Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

**²Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁶The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

⁷May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse—*(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 (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 15.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-20

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted." ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall

into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

No. 793

(Please stand)

Profession of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

C: 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory

"I Love You, Lord" FSJ Chancel Choir
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Music Director

(Please stand)

Offering Response – (Sung by the congregation)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, O Lord.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 of the Backpacks

P: Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here. These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be read and studied, notes, permission slips,

**JESUS AND ME (JAM) AND ADULT SUNDAY
SCHOOL STAFF**

Bob Haar Adult Sunday School
Sue Ann Rogers 3-Year Olds & Preschool
Debbie Ladd 1-2 Grade School
Darlene Paul 3, 4, 5th Grade School
Courtney Miller Music Coordinator

Catechism Classes

Pastor Rayl

DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Andrea Buckley Administrator
Michelle Swank Begindergarten Teacher
Angel Brown Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF
 Teacher, 3-Year Olds, TTH
Dawn Irelan Teacher, 4-Year Olds, MWF
Jill Deneau Teacher, 3-Year Olds, M-F
Bonnie Petroff Teacher, 4-Year Olds, M-F
Kellie Ulrich Aide—All Preschool Classes
Marie Ivan Aide—All Preschool Classes
Vivian Stuller Aide—All Classes
Shela Stringham Day School Cook

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

With Open Arms

Jesus' disciples were eager to send her away, this pesky Canaanite woman with the demon-possessed daughter. Even Jesus seemed to rebuff the woman's pleas that he heal her child: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Her retort was immediate and sharp, however: "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Finally, Jesus relented, marveling, "Woman, great is your faith!"

What thoughts and feelings go through your mind and heart when you come to God in prayer? Do you worry that your concern might be too insignificant, unworthy of the Almighty's attention? Do you wonder whether the one who created all life really has the power to change things? Are you afraid that the Holy One will find your request audacious or your words too clumsy? Do you feel sheepish, maybe even a bit nervy, about asking God for your heart's desire because it has been so long since the two of you last spoke?

Whatever reasons you suspect God might have for rejecting you, whatever doubts you carry about prayer, be assured that the giver of all good is ready to listen to you. God's rules about who may approach the awesome throne are not our rules. Those whom we would reject, the great physician welcomes. The prayers we ourselves might ignore are answered with as much care and compassion as those we count worthy of God's consideration.

We--all of us--can approach the Most High with confidence, certain that the Compassionate One will hear us, humble in the presence of our defender's power, grateful for Yahweh's justice and mercy, dazzled by the Righteous One's grace. God will receive you with open arms.