

Graduation
Sunday

*The LORD your God will be with you
wherever you go. JOSHUA 1:9 (NIV)*

June 14, 2026

Third Sunday of 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn “God Is Here!” No. 526

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

C: Amen.

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:

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High” No. 857

**“Lord I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises,
I’m so glad you’re in my life,
I’m so glad you came to save us.**

***You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.”***

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray. God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God’s compassion with our needy world. From the Lord’s table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, “You shall be my treasured possession,” and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God’s will.

²[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one: “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

²**Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.**

³Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

⁴**Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God’s holy name.**

⁵Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God’s enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ’s death.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

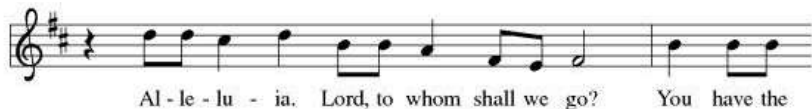
⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35-10:8

The mission of Jesus’ followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

No. 661

(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.

The Offering

Offertory Music

“Gratitude”

Jo-Anne Chrysochoos

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

GRADUATE RECOGNITION - *Presentation of graduates and the Dave Winslow Memorial Scholarship Winners. Please follow the liturgy below making the responses for the congregation. Graduate bios are on page 12 and 13.*

A Litany of Thanks for Graduates

P: Dear Lord, we thank You for blessing these graduates with the gift of education. We thank You for their achievements and ask You to be with them as they take the next steps in their lives. As they do, Lord, we ask You to give them wisdom. In Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

(To the graduates.)

P: Graduates, let the words of the Lord in Proverbs 3 speak to you today. The Lord says, “Do not forget My teaching, but let your heart keep My commandments.” (v. 1)

C: “For the length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.” (v. 2)

P: “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.” (v. 3)

C: “So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and of people.” (v. 4)

P: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.” (v. 6)

C: “Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your body.” (vs. 7, 8)

P: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce;” (v. 9) Do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of His reproof,” (v. 11) “for the Lord reproves the one whom He loves, as a father does the child in whom he delights.” (v. 12)

C: Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding.” (v. 13)

P: Let us pray. Lord God, we commend these young people to Your care, asking You in all things to watch over them and to keep them in Your grace in Christ Jesus.

C: Help them when they share their troubles with You. Hear and bless them when they ask for Your help and guidance.

P: Help them to be strong in their faith in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again so that we may know the Father’s love and live in the Father’s grace. “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2). Remember God’s love.

C: Remember our love and support for you our sisters and brothers in the family of God.

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Graduates: Thanks be to God.

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:



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: 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.

(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."

**** Please be certain to fill our a communion record card then put it in the offering plate or hand it to the usher when directed to go up to receive the bread and wine.*

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: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, (+) bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

No. 669

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

ELDERS

Sherrie Haar
Bob Haar

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Ross Church

***GRADUATE RECOGNITION—
2026***



Brody Barton

Lake High School

Brody is a 2026 graduate of Lake High School in Millbury, Ohio. He completed the Electrical Program at Penta; was on Varsity Golf Team, Varsity Wrestling Team and District Qualifier. He is the son of Jeff & Lisa Barton.

FUTURE PLANS: Brody plans to attend the University of Toledo, majoring in Business.

Grady Goa

Whitmer High School

Grady is a 2026 graduate of Whitmer High School in Toledo, Ohio. He graduated Cum Laude with his Honors Diploma. He was a member of National Honor Society; president of the National English Honor Society; active in student council; member of Whitmer Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz & Pep Bands - center snare section leader, Varsity Tennis, Varsity Soccer -Northern Lakes League All-Academic Team. He is the son of Grady & Kara Goa. He is also one of our two recipients of the Dave Winslow Memorial Scholarship.

FUTURE PLANS: Grady plans to attend the University of Toledo where he will study Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Aerospace.

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION—
2026**



Natalie Miller

Clay High School

Natalie is a 2026 graduate of Clay High School in Oregon, Ohio. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with her Honors Diploma. She was a member of National Honor Society; Varsity Soccer team captain; Northern Lakes League Senior All-Academic Team; Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association Academic Excellence Award; Northwest Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association Academic Excellence Award; member of Clay Marching Band, Symphonic and Pep Band. She is the daughter of Matt & Jessica Miller. She is also one of our two recipients of the Dave Winslow Memorial Scholarship.

FUTURE PLANS: Natalie plans to attend the University of Toledo, majoring in Health Sciences on a Pre-Physical Therapy track.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is planned for this Summer! Our theme this year is "Rainforest Falls". Rainforest Falls VBS leads kids into a lush jungle filled with waterfalls, wildlife, and wonder, where they'll explore God's nature and discover how to stay rooted in His love through every storm. Make plans for your child age Pre-K - 5th grade to join us on July 20th- 23rd from 5-8:30pm. More info to come, but keep an eye on our website: firststjohn.com for registration information.

*Congratulations
to our graduates!*

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

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 | | |

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.



Everything We Need

Among the many lessons Jesus offers his disciples to prepare them for their ministry is the instruction to ask God to send more laborers. Even in the relatively small corner of the world they would reach during their lifetimes, the disciples would need to multiply their numbers if they hoped to spread the gospel, plant churches, and harvest followers of Christ.

Today, although we say, "it's a small world," the task of spreading the gospel is still more than one congregation or even denomination can do alone. Sometimes the size of our mission field overwhelms us and we wonder if our individual and even collective efforts can make a difference.

Fortunately, graciously, the Lord of the harvest does not leave us without resources or encouragement. Our worship with fellow laborers this day strengthens us for work and witness in God's beloved creation. All around us are harvesting opportunities, moments when God's deep care and concern for all can be demonstrated through our words and actions. The anxious co-worker who fears for the future, the young person maturing in faith, the stranger seeking community in our worship this day: all are part of God's good creation ripe for harvesting.

Jesus urges his disciples to pray for what they will need in their work, with the assurance that God has already provided for everything. God's living word--preached, proclaimed, and sung this day--strengthens us. Bread and wine--Christ's own body-- nourishes us. Hands extended in peace bind us to one another in love. God provides all the tools and fellow laborers we need to welcome others into the community formed around Jesus.

When we consider the ways in which our words and actions speak Christ to those who long for wholeness and community, we may discover that we are the workers we've been praying for.