

First St. John Lutheran Church

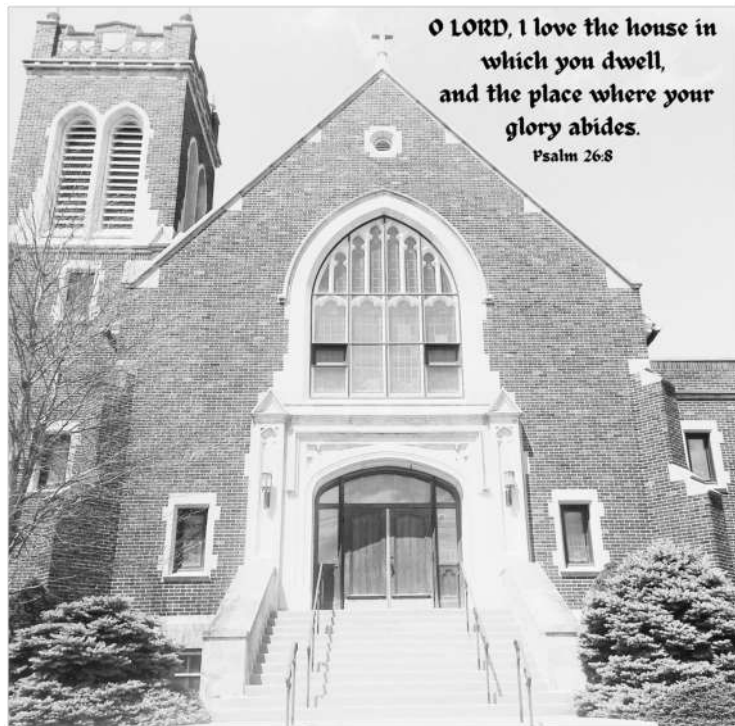
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



August 30, 2026

Fourteenth 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 30, 2026 - 9:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin
Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth” No. 879

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 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.

P: Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God’s words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn’t grasp Jesus’ words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:19-21

God’s tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, “I am with you.”

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8 (*congregation responds in BOLD*)

- ¹ Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.
² **Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and mind.**
³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
⁴ **I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**
⁵ I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.
⁶ **I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O Lord,**
⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
⁸ **O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

- ⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.
¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.
¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they

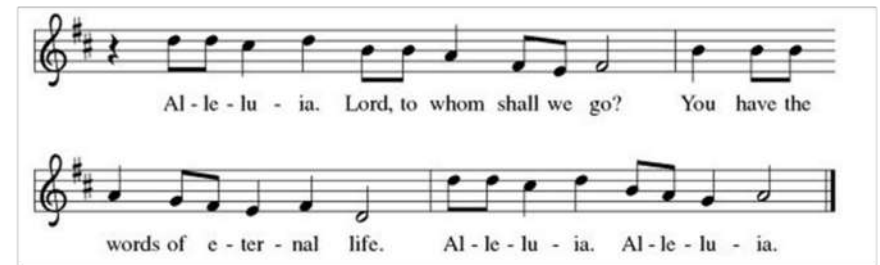
are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

No. 660

(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

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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.

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: 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

"Give to Our God Immortal Praise!" No. 848

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

John Roth

Bob Haar

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

FIND YOUR PLACE AT FIRST ST JOHN

Check anything that interests you. You can choose more than one—and you don't have to commit today.

MUSIC	■ Adult Choir ■ Bell Choir ■ Organ/Piano ■ Worship
FAITH & PRAYER	■ Prayer Chain ■ Adult Sunday School ■ J.A.M. ■ Readers ■ Youth
CHILDREN & YOUTH	■ Nursery ■ Scouting ■ VBS ■ Youth Ministry
HELPING OTHERS	■ Personal Needs Pantry ■ Feed Your Neighbor ■ WELCA ■ Bereavement
FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP	■ Hannah Circle ■ Rebecca Circle ■ Miriam Circle ■ Ruth Circle ■ Dartball
HANDS-ON / BEHIND THE SCENES	■ Quilters ■ Altar Guild ■ Library ■ VBS Team ■ Event Help
COMMUNITY	■ East Toledo outreach ■ Community partners ■ Other service
RECONNECTING	■ Worship ■ Coffee/conversation ■ Prayer ■ I want someone to contact me

Something else I would enjoy: _____

I'd like someone to contact me about: _____

Name (optional): _____ Phone/Email: _____

Remember: You don't have to do everything. Find one thing that fits you, try it, and see where it leads.

August 30, 2026

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Here Among Us

What would you do if Jesus walked into your worship space today?

Well, Jesus is already here! He says so: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." It takes "two or three" to really experience Jesus' presence. In other words, our relationship with Jesus is much more than a personal friendship, a private matter between Jesus and one individual. Jesus is certainly present with each one of us at all times, but Jesus' presence in the gathered community allows each of us to experience that presence in the company of others who seek to follow and serve faithfully. Jesus is not an identical copy of me. Jesus is here in the face of brothers and sisters in Christ. Some of these sisters and brothers think and feel and act just as I do. Some are very different from me.

When two or three are gathered in the name of Christ in the Christian assembly, Jesus is there, despite our differences. Jesus continues to take on flesh and blood in the community of faith. This worshiping assembly is where we experience most fully the presence of God, as the community meets around Christ in word and sacrament--circling around the table, the font, the book.

Personal differences and communal squabbles should not get in the way of the union of our sacramental community. Not everyone is going to agree about everything all the time; that is just part of the nature of human community. The "two or three" gathered in Christ's name will include people who will hear and see matters quite differently than we do. But our differences open the way for a deeper reconciliation that can express most adequately the completeness of Jesus' presence in this community. Jesus is among us this day. No wonder we have a reason to celebrate!