

First St. John Lutheran Church

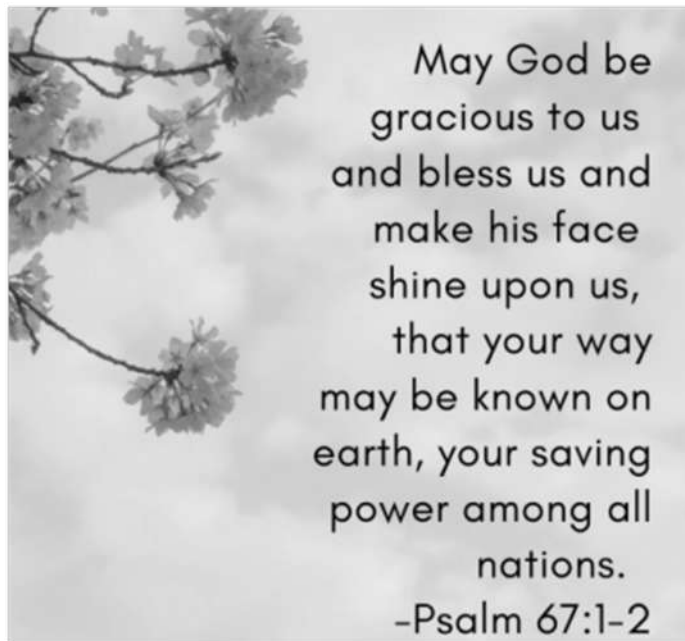
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www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	JAM Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult Sunday School
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 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

September 13, 2026 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringin' 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 bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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)

Service of the Word of God

FIRST READING: Ephesians 6:1-4

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"—this is the first commandment with a promise: ³ "so

that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

⁴ And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 67 *(congregation responds in BOLD)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ May 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. Mark, Chapter 10.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little

child will never enter it.”¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Gospel Response *(spoken)*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *(Please be seated)* 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,
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.

(Please be seated)

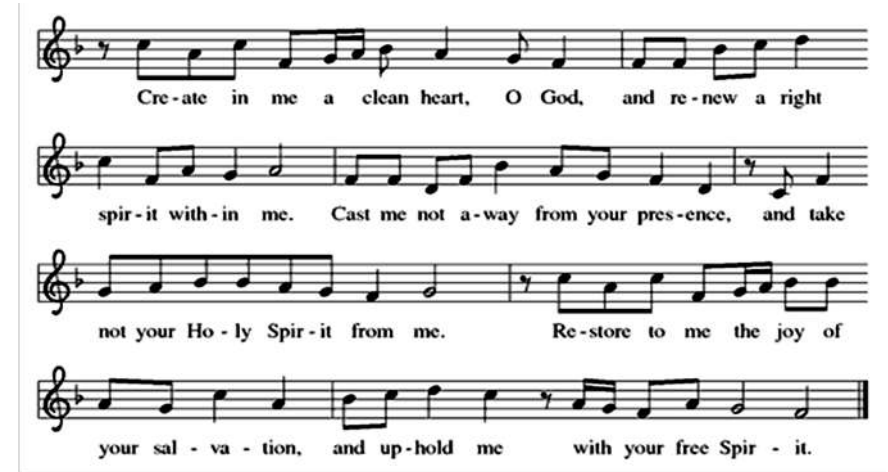
The Offering

Musical Offertory *“I Will Lift My Voice and Sing!”*

FSJ Chancel Choir
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Director

(Please stand)

Offering Response - *(sung by the congregation, as the offering plates are brought forward to the Altar).*



Offering Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

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, things to be shared, along with notebooks, pencils, pens crayons, glue sticks and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

(The Pastor takes his place in front of the Backpacks)

P: God of all knowledge and wisdom,
Bless these backpacks and each student that will carry them
very day of this school year.

As students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the
love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each day.
Help them to do their best, guide them to make right choices, and
remind them that your love and presence are always with them. Fill
them with curiosity, understanding, respect for their teachers, and
care and compassion for other

We give thanks for teachers, administrators, and staff that work with
children each day Bless the briefcases and totes of the teachers and
administrators and schools throughout our city, our nation, and our
world. May these teachers and staff be reminded that this
congregation supports them in their roles, and surrounds them with
our love and care. Give them patience and strength to never give
up, and assurance that you are always with them.

In your love and mercy, surround our children and our schools
with your protection that they may be safe places for all who enter.
We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day.

C: Amen.

Day School Kids Sing

*Good Morning Lord
Jesus Loves Me
This Little Light of Mine
I've Got The Joy, Joy Down in My Heart*

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.

*(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
FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN DAY SCHOOL 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.

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.

(Everyone returns to their seats.)

*****Drawing for Tuition Credit - Must Be Present To Win*****

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

No. 537

Please Remember to pick up Backpacks after the service

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson

Matt Miller

SOUND BOARD

Beth Hugueley

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

Catechism Classes

Pastor Rayl

DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Andrea Buckley	Administrator
Michelle Swank	Beginnergarten 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	Substitute Teacher—All Preschool Classes
Marie Ivan	Aide—All Preschool Classes
Vivian Stuller	Aide—All Classes
Shela Stringham	Day School Cook

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

First St. John Day School



Our monthly ministry outreach for September will be our very own, First St. John Day School!

FSJ Lutheran Day School & Child Care Center is a ministry of First St. John Lutheran Church. In cooperation with the congregation and community families, we strive to prepare our students for the academic, social, intellectual, and spiritual challenges they will face as they grow and mature. We recognize that it is a responsibility and a privilege to be entrusted by God and our school families to help guide and develop the character of each student. We believe that each child was born with a unique gift from God and that his/her needs should be met at his/her level of development.

To support this effort, please place your check in the yellow envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office at 2471 Seaman St. Toledo, OH 43605.



September 13, 2026

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Extreme Forgiveness

Many times people don't even want to forgive someone once, let alone more than once! To them even once is generous. The Jewish rabbis (or teachers) of Jesus' day taught that you are to be even more generous than that and said that you should forgive someone of an offense up to three times. Peter went the extra mile. He more than doubled the recommendation of the leading Jewish teachers and he bumped it all the way up to seven times. Peter probably felt like he was really raising the bar and that he was being super generous. However, Jesus took it to the extreme! Jesus said we should forgive our brother or sister in Christ seventy times seven times. Now, for those of you who didn't come prepared to do math today, that is 490 times! That's extreme.

The point is not to keep a scrap of paper with tally marks for how many times you have forgiven someone until you reach seventy times seven. In some cases, we may feel we would still be waiting! Jesus is again using hyperbole (or extreme exaggeration) to make a point. He is basically saying that if our brother or sister is genuinely repenting of their sin, we should forgive them an unlimited number of times.

Surely, Jesus could anticipate that this might seem extreme to Peter, and to us, so He offers us a parable in today's reading to help us better understand this extreme standard. Jesus provides this story to give us a picture of God's forgiveness shown to us. In Jesus, we have experienced extreme forgiveness, and God calls us to mirror that level of forgiveness to others.

This life to which Jesus calls us is not easy, it is extreme. However, if we have experienced the change only the extreme grace of Christ can bring in our lives, we should want to pass that onto to others as well. Remember, forgiveness brings peace to both the forgiver and the forgiven.