

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



Called *through faith*; **Gathered** *in worship*; **Serving** *the community*

October 25, 2026 - 10:30 am

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	Adult Sunday School
10:30 am	JAM Sunday School
10:30 am	Late Worship
2:00 pm	Chapel Communion
<i>(2nd Sunday of the month)</i>	

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign”

No. 434

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through (✠) Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

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 heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Children's Message

Bells

"Jesus Medley"

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" FSJ Bell Choir
Cheri Sergent, Director*

Introduction

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ² “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ¹⁵ “You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord. ¹⁷ “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1 (congregation responds in BOLD)

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

² **but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ **The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

⁶ **for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse (sung in unison)

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 Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 22.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? ⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

No. 504

(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

Musical Offertory

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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





Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

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.

Post Communion Response *(sung in unison)*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name.

Send us with your prom-is-es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: Like children held in the arms of Jesus, receive the blessing:
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

No. 779

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve your neighbor with joy.

C: Thanks be to God

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

John Roth

Bob Haar

READER

Ross Church

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap, shampoo (child) disposable razors, paper towels, 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.

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.

The Hammer of Reformation

In 1517, the sound of a hammer was heard throughout the world and it did not come from a construction site. It originated in the heart and soul of a Roman Catholic priest who had had enough of the corruption and false teaching streaming out of Rome— Martin Luther. Luther took a bold and dangerous step as he nailed a paper to the door of a Cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany on which he had written 95 complaints against the only Christian community of his day - his own Church. It went down in history as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, the most dramatic reform within Christianity. It did not take many days for discontent to grow into conflict. Some believers wanted change and some did not. Fearing for Martin Luther's safety, a friend led him into the protection of a castle .It was there that Luther reaffirmed the strength and comfort of a mighty God. Within his temporary hiding place, the words of Psalm 46:1 came alive and vibrant for him: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." During those days of solitude, Luther began a translation of the Scriptures into German. He firmly believed that "all people must be able to read God's word for themselves." It was the accepted norm of the day that the Bible, written in Latin, was only read by the priest. Likewise, he believed that church music was for everyone to sing. "The devil who is the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless trouble, flees before the sound of God's music almost as much as before the Word of God," Luther declared. With that inspiration, he composed the hymn, "a mighty fortress is our god." It is a bold affirmation of our powerful and loving God. Luther died in 1546 at the age of sixty three in the town of his birth. Not a perfect man, Luther was known at times to be crass, harsh, and he held to many of the prejudices that were prevalent in his day. As the saying goes: the best of men are men at best. We can all be thankful that God raises up and uses unworthy people. like us to accomplish His ends. (Excerpt from Lucy Neely Adams, crosswalk.com)