



First St. John Journal



Volume 29, Issue 8

August, 2016

At its meeting on July 19th, the Church Council formally constituted the Call Committee for First St. John Lutheran Church. On Sunday, July 31, these members will be presented to the congregation and commissioned with prayers and promises for their effort and support. As the congregation moves into this new phase of life and ministry, I thought it would be helpful to share some thoughts, my own and of others, about this process.

The calling of a pastor is a time of significant change for a congregation and the community. There are special needs and circumstances in every situation, even as there are special opportunities to express love for one another, make evaluations, and prepare for the future in good order.

Certain responsibilities arise for congregations and synod, and the procedures are uniquely ours, as Lutheran Christians. It is important for everyone to understand and respect each other's responsibilities and not act independently of each other.

For a congregation, the time of pastoral change is an anxious time. Many natural questions arise about the future. It is also a time when important decisions are made. Where do we see God leading us? What parts of our mission does our Lord call us to continue, cease, begin, strengthen, etc.? Where do we want to go? What kind of pastoral leader do we want/need? How are we going to manage our life together as the people of God?

It is absolutely crucial that this time is handled well. If not, the results may haunt the congregation for many years. It is a time when you need to function in as healthy a manner as possible. A central part of preparing to call a new pastor is to ensure you are ready. Readiness means the congregation is clear about its mission, feels confident in its ability to manage its differences, and has a consensus about what kind of pastoral leader is wanted and needed.

The Synod provides several ways to help the congregation get ready. One is to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP provides congregations with a single, common form to use to describe their mission in the search for a pastor. There are five sections of the MSP that will

require work from the Call Committee, Church Council, church organizations, and congregation in putting together a view of the congregation, the community, the pastoral office, and a vision of the ministry and future into which God is calling everyone to participate.

During this process it is critical to be patient, prayerful, proper, and persistent. Doing the MSP as prescribed can generate a renewed life and purpose for the congregation. It also can lay the foundation for a good beginning with new pastoral leadership. The Call Committee will need everyone's assistance and cooperation in completing the MSP.

Remember, calling a pastor is not the same as hiring an employee, and what is often accepted in business and industry is **NOT** the process used in the church. Respect for the call process includes prayer for assistance and understanding that the congregation, synod and pastoral candidate are in an interdependent process, requiring cooperation by all. This process is not a mere mechanical event. We need God's Holy Spirit at every step, and it is right to ask for holy guidance.

In the final analysis, this process is intended to help the congregation ask and answer one question, which is, "In our deepest reflection and prayer, do we believe God is moving us to call this pastor to speak for Christ and serve Christ in our parish?" Everything else is secondary to this. Trust that this process can help in your discernment, and know that God's faithfulness is present for the people of First St. John Lutheran Church.

— *Pastor Rayl*

CALL COMMITTEE SELECTED

The members of the committee to call our next pastor are: Emily Kruse, Sue Ann Rogers, Deb Hagedorn, Bob Haar, Laurie Witt, Sue Wern, Kim Vaculik, Keith Mullen, and Nate Cousino. These members will be installed on July 31st. Please pray for our committee and give them your support.

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

7-13-16 *Fintan Theodore Hagedorn*, born to Matt and Erin (Laurell) Hagedorn.

Baptisms

6-5-16 *Aiden Richard Hagedorn*, born March 1, 2016 to Nick and Lauren (Matheney) Hagedorn. Sponsors are Erin Matheney and Evan Matheney.

6-19-16 *Krishan Rajendra Holston*, born December 4, 2015 to Kaneil and Sandhya (Joshi) Holston. Sponsors are Anisha Liesner and Melvin White.

Marriages

6-25-16 Jamie Rossler and Ben Hodges

7-2-16 Cheri Johnson and Dave Sergent

Deaths

None.

Transfer To / From First St. John: None

ALTAR GUILD NEWS



Next Meeting: We will meet on Monday, August 1st at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendar!

Harvest Festival Donations: Harvest Festival is on Sunday, September 18th. Donations of produce, canned goods, etc. can be placed in the lounge Friday, September 16th or in church by 10 am on Saturday, September 17th. Please help beautify our altar on this special occasion. Thank you.

Weekly Altar Flowers: Honor your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board and sign up for the Sunday you want. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment.



MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Laurie Witt
25400 Fort Meigs Rd. #149
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(Kevin)



ELDERS FOR AUGUST

We will continue with our summer worship services at 9:00 am for the month of August. We'll return to our regular schedule on September 11th, after Labor Day.

7th	Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd
14th	Darold Henninger, Mike Winslow
21st	Ryan Hugueley, Linda Yenrick
28th	Sherrie Haar, Bob Haar

CHOIR PARTY



This summer's choir party will be Thursday, August 18th beginning at 5:00 pm at Dave and Beth Hodges' home. They will provide meat and drinks; please bring a dish to share. They are located at 8970 Cedar Point Rd. in Oregon, at the corner of Cedar Point and Decant.

Please RSVP to Beth at 419-260-7594 and let her know what you're bringing to eat. See you there!

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing (419-691-7220), emailing (office@firststjohn.com) or mailing the changes to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/ ROOF

In memory of **Elinor Ehram** by Ken & Chris Koch.

In memory of **Hilda Saelzler** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Karen Frey, Elaine Gladieux, Tom & Janet Eppard, Mary Mortemore, Lois Staber, Rebecca Circle, Lloyd & Mary Daman; Tom, Sandy & Kevin Garverick, Linda Hagedorn, Tom & Margie Iserman, Karen & Mike Godfrey, Ron & Linda Dunmyer, Jeff & Deb Ladd, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Darlene Lorenzen, M/M Donald Avers, M/ M Merlin Lieske, Shirley & Ken Piotter, Chuck & Andra Bell, Jean DeWitt, Gloria Ross, Esther Bell, John & Cookie Schult.

In memory of **Richard Buchholz** by Henry & Joanne Schumaker, Bill Fischhaber, Margie Bollinger.

In memory of **Judy Cervantes** by Philip Cervantes.
In memory of **Marilyn Doyle** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Bert Banks** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of **Hilda Saelzler** by Bob & Sherrie Haar, Jim & Janet Fox.

In memory of **Richard Buchholz** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Hilda Saelzler** by Alan & Marilyn Miller, Penny DeWitt.

In honor of **John & Carol Schwegler's** 50th wedding anniversary by Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer.

BELL CHOIR

In memory of **Hilda Saelzler** by Raj & Linda Joshi.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Elinor Ehram** by Ada Kreger.

In memory of **Hilda Saelzler** by Ada Kreger.

NOTICE ON COUNCIL MINUTES

The June, 2016 council minutes are on file in the church office if you would like to request a copy. Due to space limitations, we cannot include them in the "snail mail" version of this newsletter.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17)

Fortunately, God's gifts to us come in just our size, shape, fit, color, etc. He knows our every need and He provides for us. Somehow the uncertainty in our lives causes confusion, and we forget who is in control. We focus on the turmoil and not on our Creator. God has a plan for our individual lives, as well as for our church and Day School.

Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1:2-6)

James says we are going to face trials of many kinds, and we need to remember we are not facing them alone. I believe God allows us to go through trials and testing so we are strengthened to continue His work in a sinful world. An individual or an organization that has not been tested does not know its strengths or limitations.

First St. John Lutheran Church and Day School has grown and changed over the last 155 years. As I have been reading and learning its history I see some years were very good and easy, but other years were much harder for various reasons. An organization, like an individual or family, grows and changes.

I have been at First St. John Day School for almost a year now. The year has brought blessings and challenges. The church and school have undergone changes in staff. Members have left for various reasons. We were able to bring back the kindergarten program and provide families an additional year of Christian education for their children prior to entering the public school system.

(continued on page 6)

All New Sunday School Coming

ACTIVATE FAITH

WITH



We are extremely excited about the all new material for our Jesus And Me, Sunday School classes this year. Called, **SPARK—ACTIVE FAITH**, it is a comprehensive Bible-based Sunday school program for kids age 3 to grade 6. Old Testament stories are presented in the fall quarter with the winter and spring quarters dedicated to lessons from the New Testament. We will have new music, new videos, and new ways for kids and families to participate. We will also move into the classrooms in the Education Building by sharing them with our Day School. Some new and exciting things are planned for our middle school and high school classes.

So mark your calendar and plan to attend **RALLY DAY on Sunday, September 11** as we kickoff a new year of J.A.M. with a special program, an outdoor worship service at 10:15, and a picnic following worship.

More information will be shared with our church families as we move closer to the date. So plan to join us all year as we **Activate Faith with SPARK!**



First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 7-27-16)

Crisis Prayer Chain List: *Those who need prayers for upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals moved to Chronic after 1st month unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:*

Family of Dave Bell
Family of Richard Buchholz
Ed & Susan Klawitter
Family of Cindy Roecker
Lois Seymour
Family of Caleb Shaffer

Ongoing Concerns: *Those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery, and/or personal situations. Individuals moved off after 3 months unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:*

Nancy Aysh
Mike Barhite
Pastor Blohm
Norma Boger
Jeannette Carlo
Ally Church
Greg Contat
Jackie Curtis
Phyllis & Joe Duda
Maddie Duwye
Teresa Ellis
Dorothy Felderman
Patty Gable
Elaine Gardner
Dawn Gingrich
Jake Haller
Rose Hensley
Jackie Hubaker
Connie & Laurie Koch
Robin Kovesdi
Ilean Labuhn
Kate Lajti
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar & his family
Margie Myers
Donald Nelson, Sr.
Pam Pirolli
Paul Rang
Sheryl Rayl
Olivia & Delaney Reamsnyder
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Dr. Steve Rowe
John Rowley
Phyllis Schuffenecker

Norm Schumaker
Mary Kay Smith
John Spoerl
John Tsaousidis
Winnie Wohlgamuth
Olivia Zeisler
Olga Zimmerman

Please let any of the prayer chain contacts know if any of the individuals can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com

Lynn Folk	419-691-3410
Donna Koehn	419-693-5030
Ada Kreger	419-693-1549
Gloria Ross	419-836-7166

TOURS OF THE ORPHANAGE



If you or your church group would like to schedule a tour of the Orphan's Home Museum at 2411 Seaman St., please contact Bob Haar, LHS Archives Director, at rhaar@lhsoh.org or call 419-250-9409.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of First St. John, please contact Pastor Rayl or the church office. A class will be scheduled after an organizational meeting to decide the best time to conduct the classes. There will be between 4 to 6 sessions. Anyone else who would like to review some of the basics of our Christian faith and Lutheran teachings is also invited. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Rayl.

WELCA NEWS

The board for the Women of the ELCA will meet on Monday, August 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the lounge.

Rebecca Circle will meet on Saturday, August 6th at 11:30 a.m. at Rayz Café in Genoa.

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 9th at 11:00 am at the Crazy Lady in Curtice.

L.E.A.F. FESTIVAL NEWS

URGENT: All members who volunteered to solicit local businesses for donations, please note the deadline to have those items at the church is August 8th! We must have these items by then so we can prepare to assemble the baskets on the 22nd. You may bring the items to the Day School or any board member.

Tickets go on sale August 1st and are \$40 per person or \$320 to reserve a table of eight. Please contact Bill Caldwell if you would like to help sell them. You can buy them from Carol at the Day School office or from any Day School board member. Please invite your friends and family to this fun event!

If you enjoy baking, we will meet the week of August 28th to bake and freeze 200 cookies. Watch the Sunday bulletins for an exact date and time.

If you love to frost cookies, we have a job for you! We will meet the week of September 12th to frost 200 cookies. Again, watch the Sunday bulletins for the exact date.

If you already volunteered for either of these "cookie" tasks, someone will contact you about when to meet. If you did not previously sign up but would like to help, please call Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225.

We will assemble baskets for the silent auction the week of August 22nd. Donna Koenker will contact those who already volunteered for this task. If you did not previously sign up but would like to help, call Donna Koenker at 419-787-5900. There will be several dates for this task. Watch your Sunday bulletins for dates and times.

Day School Board Members: Bill Caldwell, Julie Gallaher, Karen Holmes, Chuck Hyre, and Donna Koenker / Day School Administrator: Carol Felderman

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Men's Fellowship breakfast on Saturday, August 13th at 8:00 am at Bob Evan's Restaurant on Navarre. If you need a ride, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

(continued from page 3)

We ended this year on a positive note. This spring we worked with specialists from Ohio's Child Care Quality Rating System and received our first star in the *Step Up to Quality* program. Through this program we are validating our quality, faith-based educational program. Review our volunteer opportunities and fundraising for ways you can help support the staff and students at First St. John Lutheran Day School! — Carol Felderman



CENTERPIECES FOR LEAF FESTIVAL

The fun is now beginning as we plan the LEAF Festival! We will meet on Wed., August 3rd from 10 am to 4 pm in the lounge to make the centerpieces. They are fairly simple, and we can teach you how to do it that day. Come for the whole session or for just an hour or two! Bring your own scissors and a sack lunch. Cold drinks and dessert provided. If you have any questions, contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225.

TEACHERS, ASSISTANTS NEEDED

First St John Day School is seeking a resourceful kindergarten teacher with an Ohio Teaching License. This person will need to set up the classroom and design the curriculum to meet Ohio's new Learning Standards. Enthusiastic assistants and substitutes are also needed to support the lead teachers. Training provided. Background checks will be completed for all school staff. Please send a resume to Carol Felderman at 2471 Seaman Street, Toledo, Ohio, 43605, email her at fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com or call 419-691-6480.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

The next time you buy anything with cash, save your change! Our "Joyful Noise" program will help the Raise the Roof campaign. Each Sunday from August through September, we'll have a jar for accepting your donations of spare change. Believe it or not, coins can add up fast! Remember, bring your change and "Make a Joyful Noise to help us Raise the Roof!"

