Many years ago, Mrs. Maria Rubio of Lake Arthur, New Mexico, was rolling out tortillas for lunch when she saw something that took her breath away. Looking back at her from a flat tortilla was the face of Jesus! The skillet had burned a perfect representation of a slender, bearded face onto the surface of the bread. Now I am not certain how Mrs. Rubio knew this was Jesus, but she convinced a reluctant priest to bless the piece of bread, and then she built a shrine around it. Mrs. Rubio quit her job so she could devote all her time to tending the tortilla shrine. Friends, neighbors, even strangers stopped by to look at it or to pray in front of it. Mrs. Rubio, who also prays nightly in front of the tortilla, has said, "I do not know why this has happened to me, but God has come into my life through this tortilla."

Faye Neff tells about a little girl named Wendy who always was fascinated by a certain feature in her church. Behind the pulpit was a wooden door. It was closed at all times. Wendy imagined Jesus lived in the room behind the door, and that the pastor would go back there to talk to Jesus occasionally. That’s how he knew what to preach about on Sunday. It felt good having Jesus so nearby. Wendy never would have knocked on the door or opened it, but she liked knowing Jesus was there in case an emergency came up. One day, Wendy noticed the door was open. She held her breath as she reached for the door and stepped into the secret room. But all she saw were old choir robes and church decorations. Jesus wasn’t there. In her childish mind, Wendy wondered if Jesus had left her church for some reason. If Jesus wasn’t in her church, then where was He?

Martha Wade is a Bible translator who has chosen to live in one of the most primitive places on earth, a jungle village in Papua, New Guinea, in order to translate the Word of God for people who might have no other way to know it. Bible translation is a painstaking job that can take years to complete. When she had finished translating a portion of the Gospels, Martha showed it to a village elder. After reading it, he remarked, "Now I know God speaks our language."

Mrs. Rubio saw the face of Jesus on a tortilla. A little girl looks for Jesus in a room in her church. A village elder rejoices that God speaks his language. All of us yearn to see God. We yearn to know God is with us, God knows us, understands us, and helps us.

Of all the interesting and, at times, strange places people look to find God, the two certain places I believe God is always present is in the Word and Sacraments. These are the only places that share the powerful truth of God’s eternal love for us in Jesus Christ and connect our lives with the wonderful promises of the Lord’s presence in our lives.

If you are looking for God or feel God is looking for you, then you will want to be in the one place where the Word and the Sacraments are available each week—among the people of God at worship in the church. Please, don’t miss out on the opportunity God provides. See you in church this week.

— Pastor Rayl

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY—YOUR INPUT IN THE CALL PROCESS

The Call Committee would like your input on what we need in a new pastor, where we stand as a congregation, and our future ministry goals, needs, and aspirations. To that end, a congregational survey is available on the welcome desk in the Narthex and also is in this newsletter.

Please fill out the survey as much as possible and turn it in to the collection box on the welcome desk or mail it to the church. Feel free to write on the back of the pages or attach additional pages. The last day to turn in surveys is Sunday, November 27th. Thank you.
**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, or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605. Email: office@firststjohn.com

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

City, State Zip ___________________________ Phone ___________________

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed for the Day School’s annual Thanksgiving Feasts. If you have time and would like to help prepare and serve, volunteers are needed—even if it’s only for an hour. Help is needed Monday to Thursday, Nov. 14-17 between 9 am and 3 pm. Please call the school office at 419-691-6480 if you can help. The children help prepare the food. Our menu includes “stone soup,” pumpkin bread, vegetables in cornucopias, and a “blessing mix.” This is a great opportunity to mingle with school families and let them see the friendly, family atmosphere of First St. John.

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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our annual meeting is Sunday, December 11th following both services when we will elect council members and vote on the 2017 budget.

**Member Address Change**

Adam & Julie Ladd  
3910 Sheffield Ct.  
Toledo, OH 43623

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**CHICKEN AND HAM DINNER**

Don’t Forget the Craft and Bake Sale!

**Saturday, November 5th**  
4:00 pm — 7:00 pm  
Take Out Available!  
Tickets available at the door!

**Ticket Prices** are $10.00 for Adults, $4.00 for children 3-12, and free for children 2 and under. Don’t forget to stop by the lounge during the dinner. You can view and buy beautiful craft items. Bake sale items also will be available.

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**SEE’S CANDY FUNDRAISER FOR “RAISE THE ROOF”**

This sale begins during the Chicken & Ham Dinner on Saturday, November 5th when See’s candy will be available for tasting, purchasing, and ordering. We will offer peanut brittle, assorted chocolates, nuts & chews chocolates, milk & dark chocolates, butterscotch “lollipops,” and See’s Awesome Peanut Brittle bars—all handmade in the USA with no preservatives.

Prices range from $1.00 to $19.30. You can order through Mon., Dec. 5th. Candy will arrive gift-wrapped in time for the holidays. For more info, you can go on-line to www.sees.com All proceeds go to the “Raise the Roof” campaign. Thanks!

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**WOMEN’S MEETING**

The WELCA General Meeting is Sat., November 19th at 10:00 am in the lounge. Our program will be about CPR. We’ll also have breakfast and election of officers. ALL ladies are welcome to attend.

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DEADLINE**

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan’s Purse, which gives Christmas gifts to needy children throughout the world. Pamphlets with suggested gifts are available with empty shoeboxes (unwrapped) in the lounge, the Narthex, and in the JAM Sunday School room in the basement of the church. Once you fill a box (or boxes), please return it to the church office with your $7 donation for shipping NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 13th. Shoeboxes will be delivered the next day, and we cannot accept them after that date. Thank you for your generosity.

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To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing 419-691-7220, or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605. Email: office@firststjohn.com
## ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Elder</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Tom Gaskins</td>
<td>Sherrie Haar</td>
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<td>Terry Ruedy</td>
<td>Bob Haar</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Jeff Smith</td>
<td>Dick Haar</td>
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<td>Tom Eppard</td>
<td>Jeff Ladd</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
<td>Darold Henninger</td>
<td>Ryan Hugueley</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mike Winslow</td>
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<td>Bob Haar</td>
<td>Terry Ruedy</td>
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM

We will not have catechism or Sunday School on Sunday, November 27th. We will resume catechism and Sunday School on Sunday, December 4th.

**NOTE:** Eighth grade catechism is scheduled to meet on Sunday, November 6th and 20th and Sunday, December 4th and 18th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm for each class. Pastor Rayl will notify class members of any changes in this schedule.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our adult class meets in the lounge at 9:00 am each Sunday. Remember, Bible learning is not meant to end when you finish confirmation classes! We look forward to seeing you this Sunday.

## EYEGLASSES COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect used eyeglasses. If you have old eyeglasses lying around, please consider bringing them to the church office or the lounge. We will donate them to organizations that help those in need. Thank you.

## DINNERS WITH FRIENDS

Join us on Wed., Nov. 16th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. The menu includes lasagna, salad, garlic bread, drinks, and dessert. So we know how many to plan for, please RSVP using the slip below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Or, you can call the office at 419-691-7222.

Yes! I/we will attend Dinner With Friends on November 16th.

Names: ____________________________________________

## COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

We’re looking for new council members for the upcoming year. Positions available include Finance Committee, Elders, and Day School Board. Please contact Bill Nelson at 419-836-4165, Lisa Anderson at 419-392-3712, or the church office at 419-691-7222 if you are interested or have questions.

## TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS!

Daylight savings time ends November 6th. Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

**Births**

- 10-14-16 Twins Adelaide Pearl and Winston Jacob born to Jason and Alissa (Ladd) Vieira.

**Baptisms**

- 10-23-16 Fintan Theodore Hagedorn, born July 13, 2016 to Matthew and Erin (Laurell) Hagedorn. Sponsors are Andrew and Alison Laurell.

**Deaths**

- 10-8-16 Tina Curtis
- 10-12-16 Robert Emch

**Transfers to/from First St. John:** None.
“You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.” -- Martin Luther

These words bring to mind the things Jesus said and did not say. In the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, He spoke in the synagogue, saying, “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day.” People were amazed. As Jesus continued and said that God sometimes uses people we may look down on, thoughts changed. In quick order, the people were ready to push Him over the edge of a cliff.

At the end of His ministry, when called before Caiaphas, King Herod, and Pilate, Jesus did not speak. He let His life and actions speak for Him. He could have defended Himself, challenged the accusations, and perhaps avoided the cross. But it would not have accomplished God’s plan, which was also His plan. Previously, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed to His Father, “Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Sometimes we run our mouths when we should remain quiet. There was a lot of controversy this past year about the school, and things have been said—some true, some not. I have found there is no point in arguing the truth; we will let our actions stand. That is the path Jesus chose. First St. John Day School will celebrate 40 years of providing Christian education to young children. We seek God’s will in what we do and move forward.

But sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we should speak up but don’t. We are hesitant to get involved, thinking it really does not concern us. With a major election looming it is very important for Christians to pray and vote. Christian values are being pushed out. We need to search the will of God revealed in His Word and live in a manner pleasing to Him. This is very difficult in today’s world as it seems society has taken God out of everything. As for me, I cannot imagine how people find hope in a world without God.

As Thanksgiving draws near I thank God even more for all He has given me. Salvation is the ultimate gift, but I have so many earthly blessings to thank Him for as well.

(Continued on page 6)
Crisis Prayer List: For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to “Chronic Prayer List” after one month unless we’re contacted about special circumstances:

Family of Tina Curtis
Marion Fouty
Family of Luke Partin
Julie Woodrum
Ruth Zasada

On-Going Concerns: For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Will be moved off the list after 3 months unless we’re contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

Nancy Aysh
Mike Barhite
Pastor Blohm
Norma Boger
Jeannette Carlo
Greg Contat
Jackie Curtis
Teresa Ellis
Dorothy Felderman
Patty Gable
Elaine Gardner
Dawn Gingrich
Michael Goolsby
Rose Hensley
Jackie Hubaker
Ed & Susan Klawitter
Connie Koch
Robin Kovesdi
Ilean Labuhn
Kate Lajti
Jeanette Miller
Monica Moszkowicz
Beth Myers
Chuck Neal
Donald Nelson, Sr.
Pam Pirolli
Paul Rang

Sheryl Rayl
Olivia & Delaney Reamsnyder
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Dr. Steve Rowe
Phyllis Schuffenecker
Norm Schumaker
Lois Seymour
John Spoerl
John TSAousidis
Steve Uzl
Lee Wagner
Olivia Zeisler
Olga Zimmerman

Please check the list and notify any prayer chain contact if a name can be removed.

Prayer Chain Contacts
Carol Abbey 351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com
Lynn Folk 691-3410
Donna Koehn 693-5030
Ada Kreger 693-1549
Gloria Ross 836-7166

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Family Christmas party is Sunday, December 4th at 6:00 pm in the gym. The evening’s entertainment is by our own JAM kids. Don’t miss it because this year, Santa Claus is coming! Takacs Catering will prepare the dinner for us. (Free will offering to help defer the cost of food.) So we can know how many dinners to order, please fill out the RSVP slip below and return it to the office, place it in the offering plate, or call the office. Hope to see you there!

I/we will attend the Christmas Party on Dec. 4th

Name(s): ___________________________

Phone: ___________________________
HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS AND BOOTS COLLECTION

We will collect winter wear for local children throughout the entire month of November. We need hat and mitten sizes 0 through adult. We also are collecting toddler and preschool size socks and boots. Place your donations in the specially marked boxes in the Narthex and/or the lounge. Thank you.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

(continued from page 4)

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the LEAF Festival these past few months! It was a lot of work for all of us, but I enjoyed seeing the camaraderie and generosity of the volunteers. Especially, I want to thank Mr. Wagner for donating the equipment and workmen to raze the parsonage so quickly after the Festival. The children seem to think the playground can go up just as quickly, and they are making plans for what they think should be on their playground!

— Carol Felderman

DAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

With holiday cooking you will have many opportunities to collect Big G Box Tops. We received over $500 last year! Keep clipping and sending those to the school.

We continue collecting Campbell’s Labels for Education. They have changed their program and will only accept the UPC’s with the “Labels for Education” logo. We have been using these to “purchase” items for the classrooms since Campbell’s does not send money, but rather so many labels earns us merchandise from their catalog. Keep saving and drop both in the collection box on the table in the lounge!

Attention Kroger shoppers! Did you remember to re-enroll to have your community rewards directed to First St. John Day School? Lots of holiday shopping will generate extra funds for us, and we appreciate it!

2016 POINSETTIA SALE

Sponsored by the Altar Guild

Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship on Christmas Eve. Place this form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to: First St. John Altar Guild

Deadline for placing orders is Friday, December 9, 2016.

No. of plants @ $9.00 each ____________

Color (circle one):  Red   White

Enclosed  $__________________________

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City __________________ State ______

Zip ________ Phone ____________

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

In Honor of (Living):

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________