There is a humorous story about a woman named Carol who was the organist at her church. She was an outstanding musician, but she did something no organist should ever do. She overslept on Easter morning and missed the sunrise service. Obviously, she was embarrassed. Of course, the minister and the church forgave her. They teased her about it a little, but it was done lovingly and in good fun.

However, the next Easter her phone rang at 5:00 in the morning. Jolted awake by the loud ringing, she scrambled to answer it. It was the minister, and he said, “Carol, it’s Easter morning! The Lord is risen! And I suggest you do the same!”

I hope none of you will oversleep this Easter morning. I hope everyone will gather to celebrate the most important day in the Christian year—the day the followers of Jesus went to his tomb early in the morning and found it empty, for he had risen from the dead. Even though he had told them he would be crucified, dead, buried, and then on the third day would be resurrected, it took awhile for this unimaginable event to become real to them. This was something way out of their experience. The dead simply do not rise from their graves.

The problem for most of us is that we are not surprised enough by Easter to realize we face a choice. Easter is part of the background scenery of our lives. We've never been afraid of Easter, never been bewildered by it. Believing Jesus rose from the dead becomes a little like believing the earth is round and that it orbits the sun. Once upon a time people didn't know that. They thought the earth was flat and the sun orbited the earth. It caused quite a stir when this view had to be revised. But that was a long time ago and now we accept that picture of our solar system without much thought. Sure, the world is round and we orbit the sun, but what does that have to do with anything? It doesn't change what I have to do at work tomorrow, does it?

Is that what Easter becomes for us? We believe it happened but then, we've always believed that. Even Easter has somehow become part of the “routines” of this world. So why would it have much of an effect on what we do tomorrow? Easter is no longer shocking for us--it surely does not make us re-evaluate everything we think we know. And anyway, we're not sure we want to have everything in our lives changed.

Billy Graham once responded to someone who shouted out, "God is dead! God is dead!" With tenderness Dr. Graham replied, "That's strange because I just talked to Him in prayer a few minutes ago." Yes, the day you believe in the resurrection is the day your universe changes and, most importantly, you can begin to reflect that transforming truth in way you live.

He is risen! He is risen, indeed. Happy Easter!

— Pastor Rayl

APRIL MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our ministry outreach for April is Salem Lutheran Church, located in downtown Toledo. Founded in 1842, Salem is the oldest Lutheran Church in Toledo.

Today, Salem is a mission congregation for people experiencing poverty. They offer a Tuesday evening takeout meal, the Feed Your Neighbor program on the second, third, and fourth Fridays of each month, and a pancake breakfast on Saturdays. They also have programs that run during the school year for children ages 5-14. Children receive an after school snack, make crafts, and hear the Word. In addition, Salem hosts a reading and arts program for kids from elementary through high school ages. Salem also has a community block watch program and operates an employment program for adults.

If you would like to donate to Salem’s ministry, please use the specially marked envelopes in the pews and place your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you!
**ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE**

Our annual rummage sale will be Thursday, May 3rd (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) and Friday, May 4th (10:00 am to 1:00 pm).

If you want to donate items to sell, you can start bringing them to the gym on the top floor of the educational building on Wednesday, April 25th. **NOTE:** If you will need the elevator to bring your items to the gym, please try to wait until Monday, April 30th to bring them, if possible. Please place items on the gym stage, not on the Day School lunch tables.

Item drop-off times during the week of the sale are Monday, April 30th through Wednesday, May 2nd from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and also on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. **NOTE:** In order for us to be ready to open the sale on Thursday morning, we regret that we cannot accept any more donated items after 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 2nd.

We need many volunteers to help set up, run the sale, clean up, and other duties. If you can help, call the church office at 419-691-7222.

**MOVIE NIGHT AT FIRST ST. JOHN**

We will show *Courageous* in the gym on Sunday, April 8th. Dinner (ham/turkey sliders) begins at 5:00 pm, and the movie begins at 5:35 pm. **Everyone** is welcome. Popcorn, snacks, and beverages also will be available. A freewill offering will help cover the cost. Bring your own stadium chair if you’d like.

Here is a synopsis of the movie: “Sheriff’s deputy Adam Mitchell endures a terrible personal tragedy that causes him to question what is really important to him. Taking comfort in his faith, Adam vows to become a better parent to his teenage son and convinces his friends on the force to sign a pledge that they will all strive to become better Christians and better parents. Unfortunately for one of the men, his moral compass appears to be broken when it comes to earning some fast money.”

Hope to see you there!

**ANNUAL CARD PARTY**

The 27th annual Card Party and Luncheon is Tuesday, April 10th at noon. Tallies (admission) are $10. For reservations call either the church office at 419-691-7222 or Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. The elevator will be available.

We need door prizes and raffle prizes ($25 or more for raffle prizes), either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. Boxes are in the lounge and the Narthex for depositing these donations. **Everyone** (men, too!) is welcome to join us for a fun day.

**MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Boos</td>
<td>3029 SW 11th Ct.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cape Coral, FL 33914</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gradon &amp; Kara Goa</td>
<td>4125 Tall Oak Ct.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lambertville, MI 48144</td>
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**ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS**

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

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City, State Zip ____________________________________________________________________________ Phone __________________________________________________________________________

2
MEMBER UPDATES

Births
None.

Baptisms
None.

Marriages
None.

Deaths
3-20-18 Ethel Mae Vogtsberger
3-21-18 Jacqueline Curtis

Transfers to/from First St. John
None.

NEEDED — TWO DElegates
Pastor Rayl needs two delegates for the Synod Assembly, which will be on Friday, June 8th and Saturday June 9th this year. We need one man and one woman delegate. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Rayl.

MEN’S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Men's Breakfast Fellowship will meet Saturday, April 7th at 8:00 a.m. at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

CIRCLE MEETING CHANGES

Ruth Circle: Since our regular meeting date falls on the day of the Card Party, we will meet one week earlier on April 3rd instead.

Rebecca Circle: A memorial service has been scheduled on our regular meeting date, so we will meet the following Saturday, April 14th, instead. Please mark your calendars.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY APRIL FOCUS

Our designated item for April is facial tissues. The bins for collecting items are under the main board in the Narthex (far left pull-out bin) or the bright green bin in the lounge. Thank you for your help.

QUILTING WRAP-UP

Many ladies came out this year to assemble quilts. Each week, we had an average of 17 ladies pinned, tied and sewed. We were blessed to have home sewers to make our gatherings on Monday much easier. Thanks to Michelle and Heather, Wanda, Jane, and Jean who sew at home, and to Penny, Sue, and Eleanor who tied at home.

We had a couple of snow days, so we completed 162 quilts in nine Mondays. We are donating 120 quilts to various charities in the Toledo area. Thank you to everyone who came out this year to help.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you are currently enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program, you must re-enroll each year after April 1st by going online to (www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

To set up the link, you must create an account (if you haven’t already done so). Then sign in to your account, select “View Rewards Details,” scroll down to “Community Rewards,” and select “Edit” to enter your Plus Card ID and link it to First St. John Lutheran Church or First St. John Day School.

Then whenever you swipe your Plus Card, the church or school receives a portion of your total purchase. Thanks for participating.

APRIL ELDER SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Easter</th>
<th>8:00 am</th>
<th>10:15 am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ryan Hugueley</td>
<td>Kevin Ruedy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jeff Smith</td>
<td>Mike Winslow</td>
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<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Tom Gaskins</td>
<td>Sherrie Haar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Terry Ruedy</td>
<td>Bob Haar</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Joanne Henningsen</td>
<td>Dick Haar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jeff Ladd</td>
<td>Bob Hecklinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>Kevin Ruedy</td>
<td>Ryan Hugueley</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mike Winslow</td>
<td>Jeff Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>Sherrie Haar</td>
<td>Tom Gaskins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Haar</td>
<td>Terry Ruedy</td>
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Crisis Prayer List
This is for those who need prayers in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the “Chronic” list after 1 month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is notified of special circumstances:

Family of Jackie Curtis
Ginger Hart
Family of Jason Kindal
Family of Janice Logsdon
Family of Jeanette Miller
Family of Tom Sabin
Family of Ethel Mae Vogtsberger

Ongoing Concerns Prayer List
This is for those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer, medical struggles and recovery and personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after 3 months unless one of the prayer chain contacts is notified of continuing circumstances:

Maureen Albright
Karyl & Lee Antoine
Allen Baballe
Wayne Bauman
Karen Bless
Sandy Bohland
The Burk Family
Jeannette Carlo
Carol Cheatham
Greg Contat
Janet Davis
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
Dorothy Felderman
Chelsea & Lynn Folk
Patty Gable
Kate Gladieux
Olivia Gradel
Donna Haar
Julius Haller
Marcia Henninger
Rose Hensley
Tom Iserman
Mark Kieswetter
Ilean Labuhn
Kate Lajti
Scott Langlois
The Lee Family
Martha Meyers
Donna Miller
James Moore
Mary Bell Moore

Bill Morse
Nicole Mullins
Chuck Neal
Calvin Nelson
Pam Pirolli
Hunter Potter
Gene & Ruth Price
Mike Ray
Sheryl Rayl
Cathy Redmond
Michael Rheinbolt & Family
Jason Rhuland
Dr. Steve Rowe
Phyllis Schuffenecker
Norm Schumaker
Jack & Lauren Seibert
Connie Singlar
Tom Smith
Joan Tilton
Steve Uzl
Ralph Vogtsberger
Kent Wolf
Darlene Worz
John & Grace Yard
Mary & Grace Yard
Olga Zimmerman

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts know if there are individuals who could be moved off.

Prayer Chain Contacts
Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com
Lynn Folk 419-691-3410
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

PRAYER CHAIN NEWS
In an effort to expand our base of those who are praying, we want to add many more people to our Prayer Chain’s email distribution list. By joining, you will become more up-to-date on new prayer requests and changes we receive (rather than just seeing the list on Sundays). If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain email distribution list, please send your email address to Carol Abbey at cabbey@jcrinc.com. If you don’t have a computer but would like to be contacted about prayer chain additions, please call either Gloria Ross at 419-836-7166 or the church office at 419-691-7222.
NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER
The Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for April through June are available for pick up in the lounge, chapel, Narthex, and the caddy on the wall outside the choir loft. Large print editions also are available.

TWO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
On Sunday, April 8th at 9:00 am, we need a few people to help us set up the gym for both movie night and the card party. Mostly, we will be moving chairs and some card tables.

On Sunday, April 29th after church, we’ll need help cleaning out the attic in the gym and the parsonage garage. This work is in preparation for our summer roof project. (We are cleaning the garage because we have agreed to give the construction company part of the garage to use for storing their tools.) We’ll need lots of help, so bring your work clothes!

EDUCATION BUILDING ROOF UPDATE
We have filed our construction permit application with Lucas County which, per Ohio Revised Code, had to be filed 45 days before the start of construction. The principle contractor is obtaining all other permits and documents. The Finance Committee has sent the loan application and all supporting documentation to the ELCA’s loan division for approval. We should have approval within four weeks. – Bill Nelson

DAY SCHOOL GALA VOLUNTEER MEETING
Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11th at 7:00 pm in the lounge. The excitement is building towards the event of the year! If you are not already involved, there is still time. Please attend this meeting to join us in this exciting opportunity.

Thank you to those who have already donated wine for the wine pull as we have received some great bottles! We will collect wine until September. You can turn in your bottle of wine to the Day School or church office with the donor and value information attached to the bottle so you can receive credit for your generous donation. Remember to pick up your unique wine, valued at $20 or more, while traveling this summer!

In April, May, and June we will be accepting gift cards. These gift cards can be of any denomination. They will be used in some raffles, as well as to enhance some of the baskets. Think outside the box! (Restaurants, coffee shops, ice cream, video rentals, movie theaters, gas cards, and more!)

Looking forward to seeing many of the congregation and Day School families at the April 11th meeting! As always, there will be delightful refreshments.

CHAPEL COMMUNION NOTICE
Chapel Communion has been moved to Sunday, April 8th at 2:00 pm. Please make a note of it.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR
Feed Your Neighbor, formerly run by Toledo Area Ministries (TAM), is now run by Lutheran Social Services since TAM closed at the end of 2017. All donated items will be delivered to Lutheran Social Services instead of Martin Luther Lutheran because Martin Luther is no longer a distribution point for the program.

Our collection process, however, remains the same. Please bring non-perishable food items (no glass containers, please) and place them in the bins under the main bulletin board in the Narthex or in the big blue bin under the tables in the lounge by the double doors. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS
Come have dinner with your friends from First St. John on Wednesday, April 18th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. We will celebrate Cinco de Mayo a little early by having a taco bar! Please RSVP using the slip below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office if you want to attend.

Yes! I/we will attend Dinner With Friends on Wednesday, April 18th.

Name ________________________________
Phone ________________________________
“In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.” Hebrews 1:1-2a

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14a

I was reading an article about today’s young people, whom the author Dr. Twenge called the “Internet Generation.” These are young people born after 1995, shortly after the internet was created. Her findings are based on four major research studies that have been ongoing for several decades. The purpose of the studies is to compare the generations at the same age, observing the views of the youth about themselves. This way, researchers can determine if differences are due to cultural changes and not age. The year 2011 was when “everything started to change in the survey data.” This is also the year smartphones began to come into widespread use.

Dr. Twenge says, “This generation is the ideal place to look for trends that will shape our culture in the years to come, as its members are very young but still old enough to express their views and report on their experiences. They socialize in completely new ways … and want different things. They are obsessed with safety and fearful of their economic futures. They are at the forefront of the worst mental health crisis in decades, with rates of teen depression and suicide skyrocketing.” She says young people are “addicted to their phones, and they know it. It’s clear most teens (and adults) would be better off if they spent less time with their screens.” She quotes one teenager: “Social media is destroying our lives, but we don’t go off it because then we would have no life.”

Supposedly these electronic devices were meant to help us become more connected to the world around us. Instead, people seem more isolated and alone, unable to communicate effectively. I think about how God tried communicating with His people. His laws were written on tablets of stone and in our hearts; prophets were sent, and the Old Testament written, yet people didn’t understand. God then sent His Son into our world, becoming one of us so He could communicate directly with us. I remember a college professor saying, “Jesus is God with skin on, and we are Jesus with skin on.” Don’t we all value that human touch?

We need to use social media creatively on electronic devices to reach young people today. It seems necessary to use their modes of communication to hear them and touch them with the Good News about a Savior who lived and died for them. In no way are those of the younger generation worshiping as we did. I love the traditional services and old hymns because that was what I was raised with. Yet I know I must embrace a new way of worshiping if I want to draw the children and their families into a relationship with Jesus. With Easter upon us, we want the children to know as much about Jesus as they do about the Easter bunny. Jesus brings us so much more—gifts that will last a lifetime.

— Carol Felderman

**Fall Registration**

Fall registration for the Day School is underway. Currently, members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children with no registration fee. Classes are available for 3 and 4-year-old children. We are starting a full-day program for five-year-old children who miss the kindergarten deadline. Extended care is available for all children. The fall program will begin on August 15th. Call Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 for more information and/or to schedule a tour.

**HOMEBOUND COMMUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We need more people to join our Homebound Communion ministry. Training will be provided. If you think you might be interested or need more information, please see Pastor Rayl or contact the church office at 419-691-7222. Please prayerfully consider this rewarding ministry.

**MEMORIALS**

**ROOF FUND**

In memory of Brent Hagedorn, by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

**NOTE:** Memorials for Ethel Mae Vogtsberger, Jackie Curtis, and others will be printed in the May newsletter.