



# First St. John Journal



Volume 32, Issue 5

May, 2019

**T**ake a moment to read the entire chapter 20 in the Gospel According to St. John. This is John’s narrative concerning Jesus’ resurrection and the immediate aftermath as the disciples encounter the now risen Jesus who is the Lord of life and the future. Now reread verses 19-23 and think about how the disciples must have felt when Jesus first appeared to them. The last time they had seen him, Jesus was being arrested and hauled away to be crucified. They had no doubt forgotten his previous promises about rising three days after his crucifixion. What stuck in their minds was the descriptions of Jesus’ death and burial; and what filled their hearts was fear.

Fear can be paralyzing. Imagine the lives of the disciples in the aftermath of Jesus’ crucifixion. Their dreams had been crushed, their movement squelched. Their very lives seemed threatened. They must have asked themselves, “Will we be next?”

To see its true paralyzing nature, we need to set the fear of the disciples in its context. In the first two-thirds of John 20, we learn that Jesus’ tomb is empty. Peter and John race to check it out. They find an empty tomb, but they are unable to make sense of it. They return home. Only Mary remains at the grave. She encounters Jesus, and He sends her to share the good news with the disciples. She returns to the disciples and announces, “I have seen the Lord.”

Apparently, this eyewitness report from a trusted friend of Jesus did not lessen the fear of the disciples one iota. They remain locked in their house.

How many of us do not fully embrace the mission of Jesus because of fear? Yet there is a great irony at work. The Gospel claims that God has conquered even the power of death. Yet fear at its roots concerns itself with self-preservation. If God has indeed raised Jesus from the dead, what is left to fear?

The words of Martin Luther’s great hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” come to mind: “Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom’s ours forever!”

Then Jesus appears to his frightened disciples and breathes the Holy Spirit on them. The Spirit empowers

them to overcome fear and embrace the mission of Jesus. Jesus authorizes them to serve a high calling — the extending of forgiveness to others on behalf of God. The life God calls us to is one that gives *life to others*. Back in John 10:10, Jesus promised an abundant life. This life begins with the restoration of a relationship with God through forgiveness. When we move through fear to embrace life, God’s Spirit empowers us to participate in His mission.

What are we afraid of this day? What is keeping us from embracing the life God created us to live? If Jesus is alive, how can fear keep us from true life? What would it take to move us past our fear?

Jesus’ words to Thomas also apply to us: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” (John 20:29) The Apostle Paul understood this when he told the Christians in Rome: “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” (Romans 8:14-17)

— *Pastor Rayl*

## THANK YOU!!!

To everyone at First St. John Lutheran:

On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank you for all the kind and supportive cards, greetings and gifts in honor of my installation as your pastor on March 3rd. I appreciate especially the new Pectoral Cross that I was presented as a token and gift of my becoming your pastor. We are grateful to be accepted as members of your faith family. It is encouraging to know that we are in your thoughts and prayers. Please be assured that we hold all of you in our thoughts and prayers. “May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.” (Galatians 6:18) — *Pastor Rayl*

## ELDERS FOR MAY

	<b><u>7:45 am</u></b>	<b><u>10:15 am</u></b>
5th	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	Jeff Smith Volunteer
12th	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy
19th	Darold Henninger Bob Hecklinger	Joanne Henningsen Ben Hodges
	<b><u>9:00 am</u></b>	
26th	Jeff Smith Volunteer	

## WELCA NEWS

The WELCA Board would like to thank Dan Hugueley for installing the metal plate where the cooktop used to be in the lounge. It really looks good. Thank you, Dan.

We had no new business to report.

Please, we need all the volunteers we can get to help set up in the gym for the Rummage sale. Even if you can only stay a half hour or an hour or more, please do. Thanks.

We will not have a board meeting in May. Have a wonderful Mother's Day and summer.

## SUMMER WORSHIP

Our summer worship time of one service at 9:00 am begins on May 26th and runs through September 1st. There will be no Sunday School this summer.



We'll have communion each Sunday unless it's the fifth Sunday of the month when we'll have a special worship format. See you then!

## SUMMER MUSIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our summer schedule begins May 26<sup>th</sup> with one service at 9:00 am. Since our choir will be taking a much-needed break, we will have special music at each service. If you have a musical talent to share (singing or playing an instrument), call Toni in the church office, or you can go to the choir room and sign the schedule for the Sunday you'd like.

## MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

William Groll  
6906 Brown Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43616

Nick & Kristine Miller  
23875 W. State Route 579  
Curtice, OH 43412  
(Brady)

## SPECIAL THANK YOU



Thank you to all the volunteers and former orphanage residents who will participate in the Orphan Reunion Celebration coming up on April 28th. Remembering good times at the orphanage and reconnecting with former residents will be a sight to behold.

Thank you to the Genacross Foundation for sponsoring the luncheon, and a big thank you to those who plan to attend the worship services and the Open House after the luncheon. We are looking forward to a very special day.

-- Bob Haar, Genacross Archivist  
and Orphanage Museum Curator

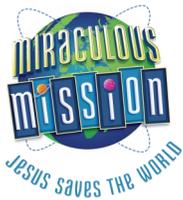
## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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 or emailing us at: office@firststjohn.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 29th—Thursday, August 1st here at First St. John. Members from Christ United Methodist Church and St. Luke's Lutheran will join us this year. VBS is for ages 3 through fifth grade. Look for registration information soon on [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

This year's theme is "Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World!" Morgan Williams is our Vacation Bible School coordinator. We'll need lots of help, so please pray and ask God what HE might want you to do to help with VBS. To volunteer, please notify the church office.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP NOTICE

Since we met on April 27th, we will not meet in May. Stay tuned to the bulletins and the June/July newsletter for our next meeting date and time.

### ORGANIST POSITION AVAILABLE



Please share this with anyone you know who may be interested.

First St. John is looking for a flexible and accomplished organist/accompanist. Qualifications include being proficient at piano and organ with the ability to play both contemporary and traditional hymns, anthems, and other liturgy, in addition to accompanying the choirs.

Responsibilities include playing at all regularly scheduled Sunday worship services and weekly services for Lent, Holy Week, Advent, and Christmas. There are two services (7:45 am & 10:15 am) September through May, and one service (9:00 am) from June through August. Availability to accompany chancel choir rehearsal during the week and on Sundays and assist the Praise Team on piano during Celebratory services also is desired. Salary is competitive and negotiable.

Please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Rayl at [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com) or to Annette Slater, Director of Music, at First St. John Lutheran Church, 2471 Seaman St. Toledo, Ohio 43605. You may contact Pastor Rayl at 567-395-0143 or Annette Slater at 419-262-0880. Visit our website to learn more about our church: [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

## MEMORIALS

### CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Glenn & Margaret Koester** by Kevin & Carol Abbey.

In memory of **Phyllis Frey** by Jerry & Ginny Nissen.

### PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of **Marty Britsch** by Sue Ann Rogers.

### CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Marty Britsch** by Mary Mortemore, Marilyn Ulrich, Frank & Barb Meyers, William & Terri Hamilton, Larry Ray, Jean Garey.

In memory of **Norma Ridener** by Jean Garey.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

In memory of **Phyllis Frey** by the Lavonne Hipsher family, Joseph Peer, Jean DeWitt, Cindy Lutzmann, Mary Mortemore, Cindy & Brad Evers, Jean Ladd and family, Ann Mascsak, Linda Najock, Raedell Long.

In memory of **Mary Vargyas** by John & Karen Rowley.

### ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Phyllis Frey** by Penny DeWitt, Mike & Linda Jaegly, Ranger Roundup Association, Leland & Sandra Miller, Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of **Mary Vargyas** by Penny DeWitt.

### ROOF FUND

In memory of **Phyllis Frey** by Gloria Ross, Marge Bollinger, John Jenkins, Carol Supenski, Kerri, Eric, Natalie, & Nathan Jefferies, Becky & Dan Bilski, Janet Morrison, Bonnie Lutzmann, Darlene Lorenzen, Terry & Nick Romano.

### DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of **Phyllis Frey** by Jim & Louise Sommers.

In memory of **Marty Britsch** by Jim & Louise Sommers.

In memory of the **members that have gone home** to the Lord Jesus Christ this past year and in the recent months by Anonymous.

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Mary Vargyas** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### DAY SCHOOL

In memory of **Mary Vargyas** by Barb & Frank Meyers.

**CONFIRMATION NEWS**

Confirmation and first communion will be Sunday, May 19th at the 7:45 am service. Pictures will be taken following the service. Our eighth grade confirmands this year are: Howard, Nathan, and Ryan Wagner.

Please pray for these young people during the last classes and their preparation for confirmation.

**CARD PARTY THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Card Party; we made \$2,604. Whether you set up, donated door or raffle prizes, baked a dessert, cooked the lunch, sold tickets, served, or cleaned up afterward. It takes a lot of people to help, and we're so grateful you did.



**JAM NEWS:  
"PASTRIES FOR PARENTS"**

On Sunday, May 19th at 9:00 am we would like to recognize the parents of our JAM students who week after week bring their children to JAM to learn about our Savior. We will have a "Pastries for Parents" celebration in the gym. All JAM parents are invited to attend this breakfast with their JAM student.

During this event, we'll hold a drawing for those children in attendance for a Mud Hens family package. Don't miss it!

**DINNER WITH FRIENDS**

Our next dinner will be Wednesday, May 1st at 6:00 pm. The menu will include barbecue shredded chicken, barbecue pork sliders, side dishes, and dessert. If you would like to attend, please fill out the slip below and return it to the church office or the offering plate ASAP so we know how many to plan for. See you soon!

*Yes, I will attend Dinner With Friends  
on Wednesday, May 1st.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATE  
RECOGNITION  
SUNDAY  
June 9, 2019**

**CLASS OF  
2019**

We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 9th. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized.

If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Monday, June 3rd. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF GRADUATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADUATED FROM

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_



## SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

The Woodville Diner Sunday Brunch Bunch is sponsoring a Church Picnic/Barbecue on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm in the grassy area next to the church. If you would like to help or have any questions, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. More news to follow in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

### CHARITABLE DONATION THANK YOU



**Cherry Street Mission** (\$160 for January Outreach)

**Lutheran Outdoor Ministries** (2018 support)

**Salem Lutheran Church** (\$920 in 2018)

**Genacross** (\$500 benevolence + \$55 donation)

**Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry** (\$284 for February Outreach + \$500 benevolence + \$1,200 value of food donated in February)

**The Mason Family** (Quilts donated)

**Bethany House**—(Quilts donated)

### MAY'S MINISTRY OUTREACH

May's ministry outreach is the Personal Needs Pantry. Item donations decline during summer, so monetary donations help our coordinator purchase items to make up for shortages. Special green envelopes will be in the pews for you to donate. Please continue to bring in pantry products, as the need is always great. More information below.



### PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR MAY

In May we are asking for donations of deodorant for men and women. We always accept other items such as dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, adult and children's shampoo, laundry soap, fabric softener sheets, body lotion, body soap, adult and children's toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, bandaids & toothpaste. *Remember, no travel sizes.*

You can deposit these items in the left pull-out drawer next to the Feed Your Neighbor bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or in the bright green bin in the lounge. Thank you for supporting the pantry.

### RUMMAGE SALE

**Thursday, May 2, 10 am-4:00 pm**

**Friday, May 3, 10 am-1:00 pm**

Item drop-off times are Monday, April 29th through Wednesday, May 1st from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm each day and also on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. 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 1st.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Since none of the Rummage Sale items will come in until the week of the sale, we need **LOTS of volunteers** to unpack the boxes and bags that will be arriving and place them on the tables. Whatever time you can spare would be greatly appreciated, even if it's only for an hour or two. Set up times are Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 am (note start time is an hour earlier) to 4:00 pm, AND on Monday and Tuesday we have additional work times from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. (The sale begins Thursday morning at 10.)

On days of the sale, lunch will be provided. Please call the church office at 419-691-7222 if you can help. Thank you!

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you or someone you know would like to become a member of the First St. John, contact Pastor Rayl by sending an email to [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com) Anyone (even current members) who would like to review the basics of our Christian faith and Lutheran teachings is invited.

### ZUMBA NOTICE

Zumba classes are dismissed for the summer. Watch your September newsletter and bulletins for when classes will begin again. Enjoy your summer!

### LARGE PRINT PORTALS OF PRAYER



The publisher caught an error in the prayers located at the back of the book (they were repeated from last quarter). Updated books are now available if you'd like to get a replacement. They are located in the lounge and in the Narthex (lobby). We apologize for any inconvenience.

## First St. John Prayer Chain

**Crisis Prayer List:** For those who need prayers in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after the 1st month unless a prayer chain contact is contacted:

**Pat Christy**  
**Family of Susan Draeger**  
**Cody Everett**  
**Family of Marsha Marazon**  
**Ava Mullen**  
**Sawyer Mullen**  
**Julie Swanson**  
**Family of Mary Vargyas**

**Chronic Prayer List:** For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, ongoing medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after 3 months unless a prayer chain contact is contacted about special circumstances:

**Lee & Karyl Antoine**  
**Allen Baballe**  
**Karen Bless**  
**Harold Brossia**  
**Dennis Bryant**  
**The Burk Family**  
**Rosie Burtch**  
**Jeannette Carlo**  
**Vicky Chambers**  
**Carol Cheatham**  
**Mary Ann Clark**  
**Casey Conine**  
**Greg Contat**  
**Kim Cousino**  
**Ruth Cummerow**  
**Olivia & Delaney Dawkins**  
**Chiara Del-Mace**  
**Dylan (no last name given)**  
**Dorothy Felderman**  
**Sara Florian**  
**Marion Fouty**  
**Patty Gable**  
**Toni Henline**  
**Marcia Henninger**  
**Herta Johnson**  
**Mark Kieswetter**  
**Joanne Koch**  
**Carole Kolibar**  
**Ada Kreger**  
**Ilean Labuhn**  
**The Lee Family**  
**Heidi LeGrand**  
**Donna Miller**  
**Linda Milkf**  
**Mary Bell More**  
**Bill Morse**  
**Chuck Neal**  
**Pam Pirolli**  
**Susie Purewal**

**Mike Ray**  
**Sheryl Rayl**  
**Michael Rheinbolt & family**  
**Dr. Steve Rowe**  
**Nick Sass**  
**Gene Schacht**  
**Phyliss Schuffenecker**  
**Skylar (no last name given)**  
**Jenny Slater**  
**Sally Smalley**  
**Jim Sommers**  
**Michelle Stanberry**  
**Joan Tilton**  
**Samuel Unnerstall**  
**Steve Uzl**  
**Barb West**  
**Jean Wietelmann**  
**Darlene Worz**  
**John & Grace Yard**  
**Raetta Zeisler**

Check the list and let a prayer chain contact know if someone 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  
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

## **ELDER NEEDED**

We have an open position for an elder. Elders ready the church on Sunday mornings and for special services, if needed. You would be on one of six teams that alternate Sundays throughout the year. If you are interested, please call elder chairman Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430.

**9th ANNUAL  
MEMORIAL DAY  
CELEBRATION**



The First St. John Cemetery committee will again sponsor a Memorial Day worship service in the sanctuary on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the church. Bob Haar will speak on the subject "The Folds of Honor." After the service we will wait in the lounge for the beginning of the veterans' service in the church cemetery. Please join us for this special day of remembrance. Thanks.

If you have any questions about this service, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Thank you.

*And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine...*

Ephesians 4:11-14a

As a child I remember playing school in our basement. I was the second of five children and the oldest girl, so I would put myself in charge of the younger ones; I even got my older brother to go along with me at times. During my elementary school years I learned well, and I used my teachers as my models. We played games like recess since we had a lot of open space in the yard and fields. We also had class where I “taught” reading, writing and arithmetic. There is still writing on the basement walls from “back in the day.”

Upon growing up my parents never really planned for me to attend college— it was assumed I would be a wife and mother. With five children, my parents (neither graduated from high school) saved some money so my brothers could attend college as they would need good jobs to provide for their families. I believe God had a plan. I had a high school English teacher who felt I should attend college and helped me get a scholarship.

My scholarship was from The Ohio State University. I started in general education classes with no major in particular since I had never thought about college. I had no clear direction, and after two years I dropped out. I worked various jobs and saved my money. Again, God stepped in. A summer ministries team from Concordia Teachers College (Seward, NE) came to Toledo and worked at my church as interns, practicing their future skills. Between them and my pastor, I found my calling. That fall when they returned to Seward I went with them. Two years later I graduated with my Bachelor’s Degree and Lutheran Teacher’s Diploma.

Through the years, I have served in many different Lutheran churches as an elementary school teacher and also have led high school Bible studies, taught Sunday School, and directed children’s hand-bell choirs. I have learned and shared many things along the way; sometimes I am the teacher leading, and other times I am the student learning.

Not all my experiences have been good, but all have been beneficial.

And so I ask myself, “Have I equipped the saints for the work of ministry?” My first goal is the souls of those I touch. Have I shared enough that they know their Lord Jesus personally? Then, have I equipped them with tools to share the Gospel with others they meet? I like to think I am fulfilling the Great Commission, given to me by the One who died for me.

— Carol Felderman

### FALL & SUMMER DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

The summer program begins June 3rd, and the fall program begins August 14th. 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 also have a five-day, full-day program for five-year-old children who miss the public schools’ kindergarten deadline. Extended care is available for all children. Call Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 for more information and/or to schedule a tour.

### JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MAY 17th

#### DAY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR POSITION AVAILABLE



We are accepting applications for the full-time position of School Administrator. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of our quality, faith-based Christian Day School in partnership with the board, staff and congregation. A bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education is required with administrative experience in a church-based, early childhood center and in the State of Ohio’s Step Up To Quality program. Competitive compensation offered.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume or may request a copy of the full job description by contacting Pastor Jerald Rayl at [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com)