



First St. John Journal



Volume 32, Issue 6 & 7

June / July 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

(Matthew 11:28-30)

I was talking to one of our pastors about the discipline of Lent. In addition to an already busy schedule as a pastor and mom, she decided that instead of “giving something up,” she would add the Lenten discipline of prayer walking. Five days a week, she scheduled a 1 to 1.5-mile walk that she devoted to silence, observation, and prayer. Ear buds and cell phone were forbidden.

She shared with me that during her first few walks she could not turn off the “busyness.” She could not stop thinking about the time, the to-do list, and the sermons that were approaching. She told me it took her over two weeks (over 10 walks) until she could set aside the busyness and truly begin to walk and pray. So often the pace of our doing gets in the way of God’s simple call for renewal and rest.

In his book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*, Wayne Muller writes, “When we live without listening to the timing of things, when we live and work in twenty-four-hour shifts without rest—we are on war time, mobilized for battle. Yes, we are strong and capable people; we can work without stopping, faster and faster, electric lights making artificial day so the whole machine can labor without ceasing. But remember: No living thing lives like this. There are greater rhythms, seasons and hormonal cycles sunsets and moonrises, and great movements of seas and stars. We are part of the creation story, subject to all its laws and rhythms.”

In a distracted world, the sacred rhythm that

Wayne Muller highlights and the sacred rest that Jesus offers can be difficult to find. It takes discipline to set aside our labor and seek God’s gifts of silence, observation, and prayer. And it takes an openness to relinquish our ways and to trust the one who invites us to come, to learn, and to rest. Thank you, Jesus, for your call to “come to you,” for you are gentle and humble in heart, and your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

So, how is your pace these days? And how might the words of Jesus help you to discover a new rhythm and flow? How might God be challenging you to set aside “mobilizing for battle” to embrace a pace of peace? (*reprinted from the May 13, 2019 email newsletter of Bishop Daniel Beaudoin.*)

(Don’t forget that an important reason for WORSHIP is to remove ourselves from daily pursuits, to come into the presence of God, to enjoy a time of rest, and to allow the Spirit of the Living Lord to refill and refresh our lives. Please, join your family of faith at First St. John Lutheran Church this summer at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday.)

In loving concern,
Pastor Jerald Rayl

CONGRATULATIONS, 8th GRADERS!



Congratulations to the 8th graders who confirmed their faith on Sunday, May 19th: Howard, Nathan, and Ryan Wagner. May you grow in your faith as you allow God to guide you on your life’s journey with Him.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule began on Sunday, May 26th and will run through Sunday, September 1st, with one service at 9:00 am. Summer office hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, starting Monday, June 3rd through Friday, August 30th.



DAVID WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Taylor Layman who is the recipient of this year's David Winslow Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations!

MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a mid-year congregational meeting on Sunday, July 7th following the 9:00 am service. The meeting will be informative, and we will have a vote to determine approval for a projector and screen for the gym stage. See you then!

**AUGUST NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE — JULY 23rd**

ELDERS SCHEDULE

Please note we will have only one service at 9:00 am each Sunday in the summer.

JUNE

- 2nd Kevin Ruedy, Mike Winslow
- 9th Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy
- 16th Bob & Sherrie Haar
- 23rd Joanne Henningsen, Ben Hodges
- 30th Darold Henninger, Bob Hecklinger

JULY

- 7th Kevin Ruedy, Mike Winslow
- 14th Jeff Smith, Volunteer
- 21st Bob & Sherrie Haar
- 28th Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

MEMBER UPDATES



Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

5-5-19 *Emma Ann* and *Colton James Cousino*, born 11/13/18 (Emma) and 11/14/18 (Colton) to Nate and Brittany (Larkins) Cousino. Emma's sponsors are Andy Heilman and Morgan Williams; Colton's sponsors are A.J. King II and Brandi Barhite.

5-19-19 *Grayson James Shank*, born 7/20/15 and *Stella Marie Shank*, born 10/18/18 to Tyler Shank and Kristin Miner. Grayson's sponsors are Jacob Zilles, Katlyn Miner, and Brandon Shammo; Stella's sponsors are Jacob Zilles and Emily McConocha.

Marriages

- 4-27-19 James Weber and Chelsea Bell
- 5-18-19 Nick Paul and Lauren Kirby
- 5-25-19 Kyle Crouch and Abigail Herrera

Deaths

None.

Transfers from First St. John

None.

Transfers to First St. John

Jamie Hodges from St. John Lutheran in Williston, OH.

Tyler Shank from St. John Lutheran in Rocky Ridge, OH.

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In memory of Mary Vargyas by John & Karen Rowley.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Mary Vargyas by Penny DeWitt.
In memory of Sue Draeger by Sandy Cousino, Dale Williams, Bonnie Petroff.

DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of Mary Vargyas by Louise & Jim Sommers.

NEW PARAMENTS TO BE BLESSED

The Altar Guild has obtained new green paraments (the cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lecturn), and Pastor Rayl will bless them at the June 23rd service (remember, church starts at 9:00 am in the summer). These paraments were purchased with a donation that Olga Zimmerman left to the Altar Guild when she passed away a year ago last June. We wish to thank the Zimmerman family for honoring Olga's wishes.



SUMMER MUSIC VOLUNTEERS

We still have openings for special music at our 9:00 am summer services. If you have a musical talent to share (singing or playing an instrument), call the church office (419-691-7222) or sign the schedule that is on the wall outside the choir room door.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE

Barbara Welling
Genacross Assisted Living
2519 Seaman St. Apt. 2
Toledo, OH 43605

A.W.E. SERVICE FOR JUNE

Our next A.W.E. (Adoration Worship Experience) service will be held on Wednesday, June 12th in the (air-conditioned) lounge on the middle floor of the Education Building. We meet at 5:30 pm for a light supper, followed by our worship.



NOTE: We will not meet in July.

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 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

SUMMER PICNIC & BARBECUE!

The Woodville Diner Sunday Brunch Bunch is sponsoring a Church Picnic & Barbecue on Saturday, June 22nd at 4:30 pm in the grassy area next to the church. We will have face painting, cornhole toss, and other games. If you would like to help or have any questions, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

In order to plan this event, we must know if there is enough interest. If you want to attend, please RSVP by Friday, June 7th by filling out the RSVP slip below and placing it in the offering plate. Or you can call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 or the church office at 419-691-7222. Thank you!

Yes! I/we will attend the summer picnic on Saturday, June 22nd.

Name _____

Phone _____



MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our next breakfast is Saturday, June 8th at 8:00 am at the Woodville Diner (on Woodville Rd.). Our July breakfast will be Saturday, July 13th at 8:00 am, again at the Woodville Diner. Please call Bob Haar 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.

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.

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Portals of Prayer devotionals for July through September will be available for pick up beginning in June. You can find them in the Narthex, the Chapel, and the lounge. A few small print editions also can be found in the caddy outside the church door by the choir loft.



ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD

We will not meet in June or July. We will resume our regular meetings on Monday, August 5th.

WELCA CIRCLE NEWS

Miriam Circle: We will meet Wednesday, June 5th at 11:30 am at the Black Forest Café for lunch. In July, we will meet on Wednesday, July 3rd (location and time to be determined).

Ruth Circle: We will meet on Tuesday, June 11th at 11:30 am at the Black Forest Cafe. In July, we will meet on Tuesday, July 9th at 11:30 am the Oregon Inn.

Rebecca Circle: We will have our regular meeting on Saturday, June 1st at 11:30 am at church. In July, we will meet on Saturday, July 6th at 11:30 am at Sue Moszkowicz's home.

Hannah Circle is dismissed for the summer. Watch your August bulletins for our next meeting date.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 29th through Thursday, August 1st from 6:00 to 8:30 pm each night here at First St. John. VBS is for ages 3 through fifth grade.

VBS Registration

To register your child, go online to: <https://form.jotform.com/91325895960165>

Volunteers Needed

This year's theme is "Roar! Life is Wild & God is Good!" 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 at office@firststjohn.com or 419-691-7222. Donations also will be needed. Specific items are not available at press time, but please look for the donation board in the Narthex (lobby) in the coming weeks. See you soon!!



MONTHLY MINISTRY

Our ministry outreach for June and July is Salem Lutheran Church, located downtown. 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. 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 blue envelopes in the pews and place your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you!



PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY NEWS

Focus For June & July

Our designated items to donate for June are laundry soap and fabric softener. For July, it's body lotion. Please deposit your donated items in the pull-out drawer to the left of the Feed Your Neighbor bin in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or in the bright green bin in the lounge. Also, please note that monetary donations are always welcome because they help us stock items when we run short.

NOTE: No travel sizes or sample items—families who come need items to last an entire month.

Your support of this ministry is much appreciated.

BORROWING TABLES & CHAIRS

To borrow tables and chairs for summer events, call the church office to reserve them. Remember, tables and chairs in the gym are not to be removed from the building; instead, the tables and chairs in the garage are available for use. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You can find the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment. NOTE:



When you pay by check, please make it out to First St. John Lutheran Church and write "Altar Guild" on the memo line. Thanks!

FROM THE WELCA PRESIDENT

I wish to thank everyone who worked so hard on the Rummage Sale this year. Whether you brought things in, worked the elevator, set up, or cleaned up, you all did a fantastic job.

Remember to sign up for the summer picnic, sponsored by the Woodville Diner Brunch Bunch. We will have face painting, cornhole toss, and other games. Please sign the reservation sheet in the bulletin or on page 3 in this newsletter and turn it in to the church office so we know how many will be attending. Thank you, and have a safe and fun summer.
— Sue Ann Rogers

**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 _____



PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES

(As of 5/24/19)



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 "Chronic" after the first month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is contacted about special circumstances:

Family of Carol Cheatham
Cody Everett
Logan Roberts
Connie Singlar
Family of Sally Smalley

Chronic Prayer List

This is for those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, ongoing medical struggles and recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after 3 months unless one of the prayer chain contacts has been contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

Lee & Karyl Antoine
Karen Bless
Harold Brossia
Dennis Bryant
The Burk Family
Rosie Burtch
Jeannette Carlo
Vicky Chambers
Pat Christy
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
Herta Johnson
Mark Kieswetter
Joanne Koch
Carole Kolibar
Ada Kreger
Ilean Labuhn
The Lee Family
Heidi Le Grand
Donna Miller
Mary Bell Moore

Bill Morse
Chuck Neal
Pam Pirolli
Susie Purewal
Mike Ray
Sheryl Rayl
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Dr. Steve Rowe
Nick Sass
Gene Schacht
Phyllis Schuffenecker
Skylar (no last name given)
Jenny Slater
Jim Sommers
Michelle Stanberry
Julie Swanson
Joan Tilton
Samuel Unnerstall
Steve Uzl
Barb West
Jean Wietelmann
Darlene Worz
John & Grace Yard
Raetta Zeisler

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

Prayer Chain Contacts

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

Lynn Folk 419-309-7977
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



This four-man scrambles will be Saturday, August 3rd at 8:00 am at Eagles Landing Golf Club (note change of venue). Price is \$70 per person. Menu will include half a chicken, corn, cheesy potatoes, salad, rolls, and desert. Hot dog at the turn. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place, longest drive and closest to the pin. If you'd like to register or sponsor a hole, call Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or 419-698-7904.

All proceeds go to the Winslow Scholarship Fund at First St. John.

After washing their feet, he (Jesus) put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? ... Do as I have done to you."

John 13:12, 15

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He lived as one fully human and fully God. He was way better than all of us in so many ways (perfect), yet He seems to have never felt being human was beneath Him. I don't believe He skipped out on doing anything. I am sure He took out the trash for his mother or swept the carpenter's shop for his father.

John tells us the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. This was usually a servant or slave's job. As guests came into a house their feet would be washed of the dirt and dust from the roads. When Jesus' guests came to celebrate the Passover with Him, He did not ask a servant to do the job. He did it instead. Peter protested that his Lord should not do this; I am sure it did not feel right to him. Jesus explained that a leader must be a servant of all, and then He showed them what that meant.

As the leader of a school or organization, I have never asked anyone to do anything I would not do. Along with sitting in an office writing newsletters, sending out emails, or planning meetings, I also have unplugged toilets and mopped floors after a child had been sick. I believe that working alongside my colleagues strengthens us as an organization. I want them to know that what they do is important, no matter what it is. I know not everyone believes that, that some want to be at the top of the stack.

FALL & SUMMER DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Our summer program begins June 3rd, and the fall program begins August 14th. 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.

Currently, members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children with no registration fee.

Call Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 for more information, to schedule a tour of the building, and/or to pick up registration forms. Tell your friends about our 3-star rated school!

Today's society seems to teach that others are supposed to jump to our every wish. I watch as parents seem to attempt to meet every wish and demand of their child. Sure, parents are to provide the necessities of life, including character building traits such as integrity, compassion and responsibility. So, where has all this bullying come from? People seem to think if they put others down, it will move them up.

I wonder if Jesus looks down at His world and cringes at what society now accepts as the norm. We have chosen to go our own way—we have taken prayer and discipline out of our schools. There is no respect for those in authority because of all the lying and abuse of that authority. You can fill in with examples. As an educator it makes me wonder what our children are now learning in the public schools. There will be a calling to answer for our actions. I have not always made the best decisions, and for that I ask forgiveness. I continue to seek God's guidance as I make decisions for the school and myself.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve here at First St. John Day School. Your prayers are appreciated as the Day School seeks a new administrator and I move into retirement. There are still many ways to volunteer here, and I will be happy to assist you with opportunities to serve.

— Carol Felderman

CONGRATULATIONS!

Big congratulations to our Day School administrator, Carol Felderman, and the entire school staff on earning their third star in the state's Step Up to Quality program. LOTS of hard work went into this, so it's quite an achievement!



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR DAY SCHOOL

We still accept **Big G Box Tops for Education**. Look for the collection box on the table in the lounge.

Kroger shoppers, use your card to direct your community rewards to the Day School or church.

When you purchase qualifying products at **Office Depot**, give our school ID (70233029) at checkout, and we receive 5% back in credit for free supplies. For more info go to www.officedepot.com/givebts