



# First St. John Journal



Volume 32, Issue 8

August, 2019

*By the time this newsletter reaches you, you may have already heard that Pastor Rayl's wife, Sheryl, passed away early in the morning on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Please keep him and his sons in your prayers during this difficult time. Since it's so close to newsletter time, I'm temporarily "hijacking" Pastor's column this month so he has one less thing on his plate.*

It seems appropriate that one of the Christian radio programs I follow today spoke of meeting together as a church—God's family—and how important it is that we don't neglect our church attendance. The question was: Why do I need to go to church? If I'm a Christian, then isn't that the most important thing?

Being part of a church doesn't just involve our attendance. We can come to church, doodle on the bulletin and go home, but that's not what being a church member is about. It's been said before by many others and Pastor Rayl himself that worship is not what we get out of church, but what we put *into* it. It's what we give to God—our praise and prayers in singing and participating in the service. It's following along in the scriptures as they are read and listening to the message from the pulpit.

But being part of the church involves even more than that. We're a community of believers. We worship, study, pray, and work together. And we're still more. As we continue to meet and get to know one another, God intertwines us into a family.

Yes, families fight sometimes. We are saddened by arguments and hurt feelings because it seems as if being in God's family means we should always live in harmony with one another. I'm certain we will indeed be that way when we meet in heaven, but while we're here on earth, well, we're still human. Our own wants and opinions can get in the way of that harmony we seek. But we know the key to restoring our relationships is forgiveness, both in our actual families and our church family. When we forgive, it's a beautiful thing that binds us together even more.

With the devastating news about Pastor's wife this week, I have had the privilege to witness how great a family can be.

Many of you contacted the church office via phone, email, and text to ask how Pastor was doing and to offer your condolences and help. Still others in the faith community reached out to see what they could do. So although we may argue and disappoint one another, in the end we're still family. We pull together when the going gets rough.

But if we cut ourselves off from coming to church, we miss the encouragement and comfort others can offer us. And we also miss out on the blessings that come from being able to offer encouragement and comfort to someone else. St. Paul said it quite well in his letter to the Galatians: "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

The more our family meets together, the stronger we can be. See you soon.

-- Your church secretary,  
Toni Wilbarger

## OBITUARY FOR MRS. RAYL

Sheryl A. Rayl, 66, passed away Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> into the loving arms of her savior at her home. Mrs. Rayl was born on September 21, 1952 in Maysville, Kentucky to Dale and Katherine (Weiss) Dean. She and Pastor were married on July 14, 1979. Sheryl's life centered around her family and caring for her home. A lifelong reader of mystery novels, Mrs. Rayl instilled a love of reading in her sons. For the past 17 years, the Rayl family lived in Wauseon.

Mrs. Rayl is survived by Pastor and their sons, Stephen and Michael. She was preceded in death by her parents. We will hold a memorial service here at First St. John for her at a later time.

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

None of which we are aware.

### Baptisms

7-21-19 *Eleanor Rose Ladd*, born September 14, 2018 to Adam and Julie (Bauerschmidt) Ladd. Sponsors are Alissa Vieira and Jenni Bauerschmidt.

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

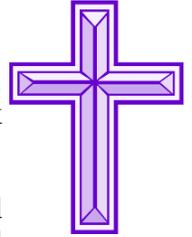
6-25-19 Shirley Dipner  
7-17-19 Phyllis Schuffenecker  
7-20-19 Roy Riegler  
7-21-19 Sheryl Rayl

### Transfer To / From First St. John

None

## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

**Next Meeting:** We will meet on Monday, August 5th at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendar!



**Altar Flowers:** To honor your loved ones with altar flowers, find the red book in the Narthex (lobby) under the main bulletin board to sign up. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can use an envelope from the book to use for payment. To turn in your envelope, either put it in the small box on the wall next to the main bulletin board, mail it to the church, or put it in the offering plate.

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

## RESULTS OF MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

The congregation **approved** the First St. John Educational Building 3rd floor projector and screen purchase during the congregational mid-year meeting held on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 82 Yes - 5 No. One question was about going further into debt. Please note that the cost for this project will be funded from the Improvement Fund; there will be no additional debt incurred from this project.

## CHAPEL COMMUNION

There will be no chapel communion for August. Please notify your friends who normally attend this service. Our next chapel communion will be September 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> after Labor Day.

4th Darold Henninger, Bob Hecklinger  
11th Joanne Henningsen, Ben Hodges  
18th Jeff Smith, Volunteer  
25th Kevin Ruedy, Mike Winslow



## HELP NEEDED TO PLAN OUR NEXT PHOTO DIRECTORY

First St. John's next church directory is now in the planning stages. Family photographs will be taken on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> (mark your calendars now). We will need a couple of volunteers to help with this process. If you are interested or have any suggestions, please contact Chuck Bell at [Chuckbell@remax.net](mailto:Chuckbell@remax.net) or call him at 419-290-4431.

## 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](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)) or mailing the changes to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## MEMORIALS

### **CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of **Ernie Bollinger** by Martha Young.

### **BELL CHOIR**

In memory of **Shirley Dipner** by Frank & Barb Meyers, Louise & Jim Sommers, Elaine Gladieux, Dan & Cathy Gustafson, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Mary Mortemore, Micki Allen, Rene Laurence, Tom & Jan Eppard, Irene Meech, Jane Whitaker, Sandy Butzin, Hansa Joshi and family, Gail Howell, Bharati Joshi and family, Esther Bell, Chuck & Andra Bell, Judith Holt.

### **ALTAR GUILD**

In memory of **Shirley Dipner** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### **CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **Shirley Dipner** by Sue Moszkowicz.  
In memory of **Martin Britsch** by Sue Moszkowicz.

## 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.



### **LUTHERAN MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE**

The pre-season meeting will be Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at Interstate Lanes. (The new season begins Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Interstate Lanes.) Each team has 4 bowlers, men or women, over 18 years old. This is a 100% handicap league; we're just out to have fun! The league pays half the USBC fee for each bowler (\$12 for one time per year). Cost is \$14 each night per bowler for 32 weeks.

We also have a scholarship fund to help local Lutheran Seminary students; last year we awarded \$3,000. For more info, contact Steve Mawhorter at 419-343-0957 or [sdmawhorter@gmail.com](mailto:sdmawhorter@gmail.com) We have averages from 100 to 200—anyone can bowl in this league. Bring a friend!

## COMING SOON!

Starting this fall, Pastor Rayl is planning to offer two new studies during the week. One is an in-depth introduction to the entire Bible, and another will be a journey into prayer. The dates and times have not been decided (some of this may depend on the availability of those who wish to participate).

Watch the church bulletins, email announcements, and the September, 2019 newsletter for more information.

### **FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR REMINDER**



Please keep in mind that we cannot accept food items that are in glass jars (this includes many pasta sauces) as these may break during transport to Lutheran Social Services. Collection bins are under the main bulletin board in the Narthex (the right two bins) and in the dark blue bin under the tables near the doors in the lounge. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

### **PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY PRODUCT FOR AUGUST**

Our item for August is bars of body soap. (You can split up a multi-bar package as long as each bar is individually wrapped.) Please deposit your items in the left pull-out drawer in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board). *NOTE: Remember, no travel size or sample items—the families who come to this pantry need items to last them an entire month.*



### **MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH**

Our August outreach is the Community Care-a-Van, providing transportation for those who are unable to make it to their important medical services any other way. They serve East Toledo, Walbridge, Lake Township, Jerusalem Township, Northwood, and Oregon. If you need to use the Care-a-Van, call 419-696-7404 after you have scheduled your doctor appointment. Hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday - Friday. This service is free to the patient and is entirely supported by donations.

If you want to help support this ministry, please use the pink envelopes in the pew caddies and place them in the offering plate.

## MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next Men's & Women's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at the Woodville Diner on Woodville Rd. If you need a ride, please call Bob or Sherrie Haar at 419-250-9409. Please come and enjoy a good meal and great conversation!



### **CHOIR PICNIC** *All are welcome!*

Come on, we've heard you singing out there in the pews. Many of you have beautiful voices, and we'd love for you to join us! Come to our picnic to meet everyone on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Annette Slater's home (please call the church office for directions). Our first practice will be the following week on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Looking forward to seeing new faces!

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

"Discerning the Voice of God—How to Recognize When God Speaks" is the name of this study by Priscilla Shirer. Join us as we learn to:



- ◆ Challenge ourselves with the discipline of daily Bible study
- ◆ Gain practical advice for understanding God's voice through His word
- ◆ Learn to recognize the Holy Spirit's character, language, and tone of voice
- ◆ Experience a deeper relationship with God and strengthen our daily walk with Him.

The format will include watching a 35 to 45-minute video, group discussion and fellowship, along with a workbook for personal study at home. This 7-week study will be on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 pm, beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the workbook is \$14.99, and you can pay the first night of class. (Please make your check out to First St. John Lutheran Church.) We will meet in the JAM room in the church basement.

Contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or email her at [cheh17@aol.com](mailto:cheh17@aol.com) to RSVP or if you have questions. Karen will place an order for the workbooks on August 26<sup>th</sup>, or you may go online to Lifeway Christian and purchase your own book after that deadline.

## **WELCA NEWS**

Wow! August is here already. We're getting closer to the end of summer and another year of JAM Sunday School to start.

First, WELCA would like to say to Pastor how sorry we are to hear of the passing of his wife Sheryl. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Joanne Crandall and Penny DeWitt talked about purchasing five more table coverings to use for bereavement lunches, the Chicken & Ham dinner, family Christmas party, and other congregation events that may take place. After talking to Joanne about the table coverings, the WELCA Board on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> agreed to purchase the table coverings.

At the last Board meeting, we discussed having umbrellas as our project so the children who walk to and from school in the East Side will have some kind of protection. We will have a bin in the lounge for collecting the umbrellas.

Since we have no new things going on in September, we will not have an August meeting. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are invited.

**Rebecca Circle** will meet Saturday, August 3rd at 11:30 am at Cousino's Steakhouse on Woodville Rd.

**Miriam Circle** will meet Wednesday, August 7th at 11:30 am at the American Table restaurant.

**Ruth Circle** will meet Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Luckie's Barn & Grill (across the street from Kroger's on Navarre). **PLEASE NOTE:** Effective immediately—Ruth Circle is changing its meetings back to the first Tuesday of the month from September through May at 10:30 am in the lounge. We will have Bible Study, dessert and a meeting. For our June, July, and August meetings we will meet for lunch at a local restaurant. Watch the monthly newsletters and Sunday bulletins for future updates.

## **J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**



Save the Date! Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

## **First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 7-25-19)**

**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:*

**Nathan Copelin**  
**Family of Shirley Dipner**  
**Family of Sheryl Rayl**  
**Family of Roy Riegle**  
**Family of Phyllis Schuffenecker**  
**Donna Wagner**

**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:*

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

**Mike Ray**  
**Michael Rheinbolt & family**  
**Logan Roberts**  
**Sue Ann Rogers**  
**Dr. Steve Rowe**  
**Nick Sass**  
**Gene Schacht**  
**Joanne Schumaker**  
**Rick Schumaker**  
**Connie Singlar**  
**Skylar (no last name given)**  
**Jenny Slater**  
**Michelle Stanberry**  
**Joan Tilton**  
**Samuel Unnerstall**  
**Steve Uzl**  
**Bill Wagner**  
**Nick Wasserman**  
**Barb West**  
**Darlene Worz**  
**John & Grace Yard**  
**Raetta Zeisler**

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](mailto:cabbey@jcrinc.com)

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



### **A.W.E. SERVICE**

The Adoration Worship Experience (A.W.E.) service will not meet in August, but will begin again on Wednesday, September 11th. We meet at 5:30 pm for a light supper, followed by our worship.

### ***RUTH CIRCLE NEWS***

The Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Luckie's Barn & Grill on Navarre Ave. (across the street from Kroger's). **PLEASE NOTE:** Effective immediately—Ruth Circle is changing its meetings back to the first Tuesday of the month from September through May at 10:30 am in the lounge. We will have Bible Study, dessert and a meeting. For our June, July, and August meetings we will meet for lunch at a local restaurant. Watch the monthly newsletters and Sunday bulletins for future updates.

*“I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.”*  
Psalm 138:2-3

Another summer has come and gone—it sure seems like they are getting shorter. Back when I was a kid (don’t we all love to say that?), we could stay home and play throughout the month of August. Once the calendar changed to September we would start thinking about school, who our teacher would be, and how our friends might have changed.

Actually it is still July and I am thinking about school starting in three weeks. At this time last year, I envisioned that to be my last school year, and yet here I am. I had planned to retire this past June and have a summer “free.” Instead, I have worked throughout the summer making plans for the next school year. It seems God’s plan is not my plan for now.

It is so easy to praise and thank God when things are going our way. We do our best and all things seem to fall into place, and our lips honor God. But what happens when problems arise; when things don’t go as we plan? We can rant against God; yet, God is still in control of all things; now it is just a matter of trust on my part. He knows the future and what is best for me.

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you”* (Jeremiah 29:11a). I believe God has called me to be the administrator of the Day School for His time period. I have come to know many children and their families. For a few families in my time here, child number three will be starting school this fall. I have had the joy of watching the children blossom and grow. Developing relationships with children and families has been a great joy in all of my years of working in Lutheran schools! Throughout the years, I have been invited to graduations and weddings of my former students, and I look forward to more in the future.

I don’t know how this year will unfold; if I will be here another month or the whole year, but I do know I will continue to serve the Day School as there are still a number of projects I wish to complete. If you have a passion for serving, consider contacting the Day School office at 419-691-6480 and offer your

talents. I want to get the children’s library together and invite volunteers to come in and read to the children. Perhaps you can talk about your job as the children learn about community helpers. Our children are the future.

— Carol Felderman

*Editor’s note: Carol’s article was written a couple of weeks ago, before we received the news shared in the article below.*

### **MEET OUR NEW DAY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR!**



The members of the Day School board are excited to announce we have hired Andrea Buckley as our new Day School Administrator. Andrea is a confirmed member of First St. John and the daughter of Judy Cervantes, who was our Day School administrator when Andrea was young. Andrea's experience with our Day School includes the honor of being a student in the first kindergarten class. Her later years of education led her to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. After moving to Arizona, she pursued her certificate in education and taught first and second graders in a small, rural public school. At the same time, she and her husband were the owners of Blue Sky Ranches that offered horseback trail rides and horseback riding vacations.

Andrea’s teaching experience, combined with her management skills from the ranch, make her the perfect fit for our Day School! We are excited about the enthusiasm Andrea has for this job and for life in general. We eagerly look forward to working with her as we continue to grow and improve our Day School.

At this time, we also would like to personally thank Bill Caldwell, Dan Hugueley, Bill Nelson, and Pam Beavers as they shared their time and talents to help us choose the best candidate for our school.

### **DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Our fall program is scheduled to begin August 14<sup>th</sup>. *Members of First St. John can enroll their children and pay no registration fee.* Call Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 for more information, to schedule a tour, and/or pick up registration forms.



## MOVING?

Please remember to let the church know when you move. Newsletters sent to your old address are re-routed, but the church pays a fee each time. To notify us, please call 419-691-7222 or email [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com), or consider having the newsletter emailed to you. You also can pick up a copy here at church.

## CHICKEN & HAM DINNER

Save the date! Our annual Chicken & Ham Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. A lot of people make plans for the first weekend in November, but please consider keeping that date open because we need LOTS of help to put on this dinner. We need food preparers, dessert donations, people to set up or clean up, servers, cooks, and table wait staff, just to name a few!

Watch your Sunday bulletins and upcoming newsletters for more information.

## CHURCH PICNIC & GAME DAY!



Come one! Come all! We are having a church picnic and game day after church on Rally Day, which is Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have outdoor games, face-painting, an indoor hotdog and bratwurst luncheon, and lots of fun. But we need you to come, and we need you to help, if possible. **NOTE:** We also need some outdoor games like corn hole toss that we can borrow for the day.

Please fill out the RSVP slip below and place it in the offering plate or contact Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 so we can plan the menu, which includes baked beans, cookies and coleslaw. Remember, it will be Rally Sunday, so bring the kids for a special Rally Day program at 9:00 am, and then join us for good food, fun, and fellowship. Don't miss it--it's going to be great! This event is co-sponsored by WELCA, Men and Women's breakfast Fellowships, and the Woodville Diner Fellowship Group.

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

How many: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you help with food or games? Yes \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## ORGANIST POSITION AVAILABLE



We are 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, and also 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 at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com) to learn more.

## YOUTH DIRECTOR MEETING

Those who are on the committee for the Youth Director Task Force, please mark your calendars for the next meeting on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.



## "BEGINDERGARTEN"

Don't forget about our school's "Begindergarten" class for children who will be five by November 1st.

The program runs full days, Monday to Friday. On site before-and-after-school care also is available.

This program helps students who may have just missed the age requirement of their public school, but who have already been through two years of preschool. Because of increasing academic demands for kindergarten students, public schools have less time to nurture social and emotional skills. This is where we offer more academics than regular pre-kindergarten programs but also include play, which is so important for little ones.

There are a few spots left; call Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 with inquiries.