



First St. John Journal



Volume 29, Issue 6 & 7

June / July 2016

Sometime ago in the "Peanuts" comic strip as Lucy, Linus, and Charlie Brown looked up to the sky, Lucy said, "You can see lots of things in the clouds." Then turning to her companions, she asked, "What do you see, Linus?"

"Well," he said, "those clouds up there look to me like the map of Belize, the little nation in the Caribbean." Glancing in a different direction he said, "That cloud looks a little like the profile of Thomas Eakins, the famous painter and sculptor. And that cloud formation over there gives me the impression of the stoning of Steven; why, I can see Saul of Tarsus standing to one side."

"Uh huh," gasped Lucy, "That's good. And what do you see, Charlie Brown?"

Clearing his throat, Charlie timidly replies, "Oh, I was going to say I saw a ducky and a horsie, but I've changed my mind."

You may smile at Charlie Brown. Yet in a more profound way, he reminds me of how God surprises us with more than meets the casual observer's eye. Such, I believe, is the process we use to select someone to fill the office of Bishop in our NW Ohio Synod, ELCA. What can seem to be a haphazard and, at times, tedious, hybrid activity akin to an election prayerfully becomes an avenue for the work of the Holy Spirit.

Such was the activity at the NWO Synod Assembly at BGSU on May 19-21. The 490 voting members gathered from 165 ELCA congregations to select a replacement for Pastor Marcus Lohrmann, who is retiring after serving 18 years as Bishop.

I want to share how Pastor Kurt Meyers, communicator for our Toledo Conference, described the event in the latest edition of his "Toledo Conference Call" newsletter: "SILENCE. On the third ballot for bishop, seven candidates were listed. Each one had spoken to the assembly for five minutes. The names appeared on the screen, numbered from 1 to 7. At the signal, assembly members were told to vote using their tiny voting machines. The signal was given that voting was completed. **The surprise:** On earlier votes for

motions or candidates, the results appeared on the screen instantly-- but not this time. Total silence fell over the room for five minutes.

"I thought of 1 Kings 19: *Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.*

"Sheer silence. A holy moment. Then, David Wietelmann, chair of the elections committee, intoned the results. The Holy Spirit had pushed the process one step further. Now there were three nominees. People began to breathe again. This moment of sheer silence happened again following the fourth, which was the electing ballot.

"HEADLIGHTS. When Bishop-Elect and Mrs. Rachel Beaudoin stood before the assembly for the first time immediately following the election announcement, they looked like young deer frozen in place, staring into headlights. Worry not. **You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.** (John 15:16 NRSV)"

Pastor Beaudoin has served as senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Stony Ridge since 2004. He was pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Edon, Ohio from 1996 to 2004. The bishop-elect earned a Bachelor of Arts in History degree from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and a Master of Arts in Medieval History degree from the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. Trinity is one of 8 ELCA seminaries.

Pastor Beaudoin will be installed as bishop on Saturday, July 23 at 1 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Thanks to the First St. John voting delegates who participated in the Synod Assembly: Linda Kusian, Cathy Caldwell, Bill Caldwell, Max Schwiefert, and Pastor Rayl.



SUMMER WORSHIP

Our summer worship schedule begins Sunday, June 5th and runs through Sunday, September 4th. We will have only one service at 9:00 am and no Sunday School for the summer.

We will alternate between traditional and celebration formats, with communion being held each Sunday. June 5th will start with the traditional format, June 12th with the celebration format, and so on.

Summer office hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, beginning Tuesday, May 31st and running through Friday, September 2nd. See you this summer!

ELDERS SCHEDULE

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

JUNE

5th Bob & Sherrie Haar
12th Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy
19th Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd
26th Jeff Smith, Jason Blazeovich

JULY

3rd Ryan Hugueley, Linda Yenrick
10th Darold Henninger, Mike Winslow
17th Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy
24th Bob & Sherrie Haar
31st Jeff Smith, Jason Blazeovich

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

5-3-16 Elinor Ehrsam
5-16-16 Bert Banks
5-23-16 Hilda Saelzler

Transfers to / from First St. John

None.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Kris Abel
1649 Landis Ave.
Oregon, OH 43616

Jack & Kelly Braden
103 Wilber St.
Walbridge, OH 43465

Eric & Ashley Frye
9654 Mandell Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Janet St. Clair
PO Box 167013
Oregon, OH 43616

Nancy Takacs
12 Easthampton Dr.
Oregon, OH 43616

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

ROOF FUND/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In memory of Elinor Ehrsam by Bob & Sherrie Haar, Licking Memorial Hospital Medical Staff, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Willard & Sharon Wheeler, Marilyn White, Marcia White, J. Grant White, Barbara Links, Victoria Koch, John & Barbara Pike, Donald Koch, Gloria Ross, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Tom & Margie Iserman, Kenneth & Janet Wittes. Tim & Linda Yenrick.

In memory of Chester Norden by Wes and Roseann Granger and family, M/M William Nelson, Ron & Jeri Ackerman, Anne & Joe Zielinski, Taina Romstadt, Ethel Norden and family.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Chester Norden by Penny DeWitt.

In memory of Laurie Madrazo by Penny DeWitt.

In memory of Elinor Ehrsam by Penny DeWitt.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Chester Norden by Dorothy Laney.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Elinor Ehrsam by Paul Kuhlman.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of Elinor Ehrsam by Nancy Gallaher.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Elinor Ehrsam by Marge Bollinger, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Joanne Crandall.

**AUGUST NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE — JULY 22nd**

CONGRATULATIONS, 8th GRADERS!

Congratulations to our 8th graders who were confirmed on May 22nd: Brandon DeWitt, Carrie Keller, Kenny LeGrand, Ty Szymczak, Luke Tilton, and Deion Vartorella. May God continue to guide you on your life's journey with Him.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our men's breakfast group next meets on Saturday, June 4th at 8:00 am at the Bob Evans restaurant on Navarre. Our devotion will include a remembrance of D-Day. In July, we'll meet on Saturday, July 9th at 8:00 am (same venue). Call Bob Haar 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Don't forget our ongoing ministry to Feed Your Neighbor. Non-perishable food items are always appreciated. Please place your donations in the two right-hand bins under the main bulletin board in the Narthex or in the marked blue plastic bin in the lounge. Remember, no glass jars, please.



RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN

Our "Raise the Roof" campaign has begun. Our total roof replacement (for both the church and educational building) will cost around \$140,000, and we cannot delay much longer. To that end, we are collecting donations using the specially marked envelopes in pews. Or, just your spare change each Sunday will add up. Place your donations in the little wooden church "Pennies from Heaven" collection box in Narthex. Keep watching your bulletins and newsletters for future fundraisers.

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD

We will not meet in June or July. We will resume our regular meetings in August.

DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This 4-person scrambles will be Saturday, August 6th at 8:00 am at the Chippewa Golf Club. (Cost and menu are to be determined.) Prizes will be awarded for first place, longest drive and closest to the pin. Reservation and fees are due by Monday, July 25th. If you'd like to register or sponsor a hole, call Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or 419-698-6507. *All proceeds go to First St. John.*



MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our June ministry outreach will be the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO). LOMO is a year-round ministry. All faiths are welcome! Their camps operate year-round for youth, adults, and families. LOMO offers quality programming that is Christ-centered, organized, safe, educational, and fun! Because of lighter summer attendance, we will collect for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries throughout the summer months.

DAVID WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Congratulations to Logan Cluckey and LeAnn Winslow, recipients of this year's David Winslow Scholarship. Congratulations!



WELCA GENERAL MEETING: GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

The Women of the ELCA will gather on Saturday, June 4th at 10:00 am in the lounge (where it's cool!). We will have a light lunch, followed by our own Deb Ladd who will help us "kick off" our Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign. Get ready for the Shoebox Challenge, complete with Christmas trees!!!

WELCA CIRCLE NEWS

Ruth Circle: We will be having lunch at the at the Black Forest Café (on the G.A.F. grounds) on Tuesday, June 7th at 11:30 am.

Miriam Circle: We will meet on Wednesday, June 1st at noon at Bob Evans Restaurant. In July, we will meet on July 6th at noon. Watch your bulletins for the restaurant.

Rebecca Circle: For June, we will be attending the WELCA General meeting on Saturday, June 4th at 10:00 a.m. In July, we will meet on the 2nd at 11:30 am at the Eagle's Nest.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HELP NEEDED!



"Cave Quest! Following Jesus, The Light of the World" will be June 20-23 from 6:00-8:30 pm. VBS cannot be complete without you! Yes, YOU! We need all the help we can get! Want to know how you can help? Here are two ways:

VOLUNTEER!

You can pick up a volunteer form at church. Take a look, consider your time and talents, and let us know how you can help! If you would like more information on a specific VBS job, please ask. Once you have decided what you can help with, turn in the form (offering plate, mail, fax) or contact Abbie Masserant, VBS director, as soon as possible!

DONATE!

For the next few weeks, there will be a "Wall of Needs" located behind the last pew of the church. Items needed range in size and price. Make sure you take a look each week. The wall will update frequently. When you choose an item to donate, please take the top sheet, fill in your name and phone number on the bottom sheet, and return the item to the church by **Sunday, June 12th**.

Questions? Please contact Abbie Masserant, VBS Director, at: peachee318@yahoo.com or call her at 419-346-1752.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration forms are available in the lounge and the Narthex, or you can register online by going to www.firststjohn.com and clicking on the "VBS Registration" tab. VBS is for ages 3 through fifth grade and is a great ministry tool to help children become closer to Jesus.



REMINDER FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

Don't forget to honor your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board and sign up for the Sunday you want. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment.

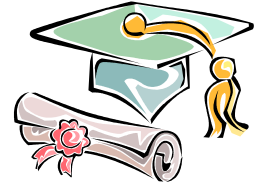


L.E.A.F. FESTIVAL NEWS

The L.E.A.F. committee (Loving Educational Atmosphere in Faith) next meets on Thursday, June 16th at 7:00 pm. The LEAF Festival is on September 17th with proceeds going toward purchasing equipment, fencing, and landscaping for the new playground.

We can always use more hands to help us, so come and join us on June 16th. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY June 12, 2016



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 12th. 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 6th. Thank you.

HELP CHILDREN AT TOLEDO HOSPITAL



WELCA needs your help collecting items for the Toledo Children's Hospital Pediatric Psychiatric Unit. These kids have tremendous needs-- usually they're dropped off with just the clothes on their backs. If you can help, please choose an item or two from the list and bring it to WELCA's June 4th general meeting or to the church office. Please keep in mind these have to be new items. Items needed: books, coloring books & crayons, board games, underwear (6-18 years old, male & female), t-shirts (short and long-sleeve), sweatpants (no strings), pajama pants (no strings), non-skid socks, and leisure DVDs. If you have any questions, please call Chris Hunsaker at 419-376-7363. Thank you.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL (JAM) NEWS

JAM (Jesus and Me) is dismissed for the summer months and will resume in September. We want to thank everyone who attended the Pastries for Parents event on May 8th. Congratulations to Lilly Collins, the winner of the Mud Hens experience package that was drawn last Sunday. Also, many thanks to Ms. Holly for the wonderful music she provided these past several months. Keep your calendar open for VBS - Cave Quest that runs from Monday, June 20th through Thursday, June 23rd. — Blessings, Your JAM Teachers

5 YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE _____



PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES

(As of 5/24/16)



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:

- Dave Bell**
- Ally Church**
- Elaine Gardener**
- Family of Dianne (Base) Harris**
- Margie Myers**
- Family of Hilda Saelzler**
- Tom Sigurdson**

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:

- Mike Barhite**
- David Brundage**
- Richard Buchholz**
- Jeanette Carlo**
- Greg Contat**
- Jackie Curtis**
- Joe & Phyllis Duda**
- Teresa Ellis**
- Dorothy Felderman**
- Patty Gable**
- Jake Haller**
- Rose Hensley**
- Jackie Hubaker**
- Penny Klawitter**
- Connie Koch**
- Robin Kovesdi**
- Ilean Labuhn**
- Kate Lajti**
- George "Skip" McCullough**
- Jeanette Miller**
- Christopher Molnar & his family**
- Willie Moritz**
- Jessica Mueller**

- Donald Nelson, Sr.**
- Alice Osburn**
- Emily Paszczykowski**
- Pam Pirolli**
- Sheryl Rayl**
- Michael Rheinbolt & family**
- Cindy Roecker**
- Dr. Steve Rowe**
- Amy Bollinger Samarzia**
- Brenda Seimet**
- Caleb Shaffer**
- John Spoerl**
- John Tsaousidis**
- Pat Vogelsang**
- Bill Wiener**
- Olga Zimmerman**

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 419-691-3410
- Donna Koehn 419-693-5030
- Ada Kreger 419-693-1549
- Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

DRIVE-THRU BARBECUE!



Summer is the time for great barbecue and boy, do we have a fantastic opportunity! Join us on Sunday, July 10th after church (and until 1:00 pm) for a drive-thru barbecue featuring 1/2 a chicken OR 1/2 a rack of ribs, plus baked beans, baked potato, and roll & butter.

Please watch upcoming bulletin announcements for ticket prices and opportunities to pre-order. You can pick up your dinner after church or drive thru anytime until 1:00 pm for pick up. Proceeds will go toward our "Raise the Roof" fund.



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

The school year is drawing to an end, and the children have been growing in many ways. One can easily see the physical growth as jeans and dresses have become too short. Some have blossomed into social butterflies as they have gotten to know their classmates and teachers. Academic and spiritual growth is not as easy to see, but when talking with the children it is very evident. They can tell me about planets, dinosaurs, farms and modes of transportation. They know about Jesus' birth, life and resurrection and readily share that with me during chapel time.

God's kids are flourishing at First St. John's Day School. Please check out our website at www.firststjohndayschool.org and our Facebook page (and "Like" us, too)! We will work to keep our website and Facebook pages as current as possible. Soon we will post our new video on the website.

We also are preparing to celebrate 40 years of sharing God's Word with his children. Tell others about our Preschool and Kindergarten classes so our school can continue another 40 years.

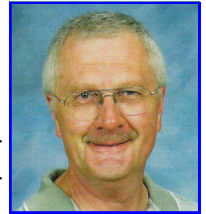
Throughout the year, members of the congregation have been praying for and offering words of encouragement to the Day School staff. In May we had a Prayer Buddy dinner where we learned who our secret prayer buddies were. It was a wonderful evening of food and fellowship! The Day School staff would love to do this again, not that we want all the fabulous gifts we received, but because all your prayers lifted up on the school's behalf were felt and appreciated. Keep praying for us, and thank you!

— Carol Felderman

LABELS FOR EDUCATION® ENDING DEADLINE—JUNE 30th

Campbell's has decided to wind down the *Labels for Education* program. First St. John's Dayschool is looking to gather as many labels as possible and send them by June 30. Send in all your labels soon, especially Pepperidge Farm labels since those bring extra points!

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR GENE HAGEDORN



Everyone is invited to join us after church on Sunday, June 26th to honor our custodian, Gene Hagedorn, who is retiring after serving First St. John for well over 33 years. If you cannot attend but wish to send a card, please send it to the church: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH 43605.

Remember, we will be on our summer schedule, so the reception will take place around 10:15 or 10:30 am after the 9:00 am service.

FREE CONCERT AT FIRST ST. JOHN!

Join us on Saturday, June 11th at 7:00 pm to hear the Home School Music Association choir, band, and orchestra perform. This organization, founded in 1993, is dedicated to meeting music education needs of Christian home-schooled students and also equipping them to use their musical talents in ministry to others.



FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE (He's back!)

May 15, 2016, our celebration of the DAY OF PENTECOST

"Some people sing "Happy Birthday" to the church on Pentecost, because the first Pentecost was the birth of the church." (from "Never-Ending Story" on the back page of Sunday bulletin on 5-15-16)

Pentecost, followed a week later by Trinity Sunday, is also an important reminder of First St. John's birth. From worshipping in homes, log cabins and barns, we dedicated our first house of worship on the first Sunday after Trinity in 1861. In those days it was customary to mark special occasions by referring to the church calendar rather than a secular one. Today, we prefer the consistency of the secular.

When you leave church, go east to Wheeling Street, turn north on Wheeling, and begin singing "Happy Birthday." Our first church building still remains, immediately on the right in the "unity block."

June 2, 2016 -- 155 years and counting, with the spirit of Pentecost.