



First St. John Journal



Volume 21, Issue 7

July 2008

In this month of July I want to share with you a letter written by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

With a swiftness that we could not have imagined only weeks ago, the waters have brought chaos to a large area of the central United States. The flooding that is moving south in the Mississippi River valley follows unusually destructive tornadoes in several states and the humanitarian crisis after an immigration raid in Postville, Iowa. The scope is broad. Tornadoes have caused fatalities in fifteen states, and at least eleven synods currently are involved in relief operations with ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, an unprecedented number in our history.

In the midst of these disasters, Scripture speaks to us. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." (Psalm 46:1-3) God remains faithful. God's Spirit is at work, moving over the face of the waters to renew life and hope. This hope will not disappoint, because God's love is being poured out through the Holy Spirit.

I write to ask you to join me in prayer and action. Please pray for all who are facing adversity, including the hidden challenges that seep in after media attention leaves: the destruction of this year's crop and the productivity of cropland for years to come; the loss of homes and neighborhoods; the severing of ties from each other and histories in particular places; and the troubling emotions and thoughts that erode confidence and faith. Pray that God's Spirit will sustain them in the hope of God's faithfulness, shown to us in Jesus Christ.

(continued on page 6)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT

"Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you."

- I Peter 5:6-7

In a few days we will celebrate the Fourth of July – a day we set aside to remember our declaration of independence from foreign rule back in 1776. Our colonial forefathers had a dream that one day they might live in a nation that is free – free to create its own laws, free to create its own constitution; and free to elect its own leaders. The cost for that liberty came at a huge price in human life and suffering. Throughout history, our freedom has been put to the test, but we have always prevailed because men and women of all creeds colors, nationalities, and religions have fought together, side by side, to help preserve that liberty.

As modern day Christians we enjoy freedom of another kind. We should all be free from anxiety because we know that God is ultimately in charge. He will provide for us, no matter what the circumstances. We are His children, and He really cares deeply for each and every one of us. It's hard to trust in God for all that we need. Gas prices are reaching \$4.00 a gallon and beyond. Our country is still at war. Food prices are rising out of control. And in few months we will elect a new president to lead our land. Uncertainty abounds, but only if you let in to your hearts.

The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Jesus has conquered sin and death. Through the body and blood of our Lord, our victory is assured. So instead of bemoaning our fate, let us rejoice in our daily blessings and be thankful for all our Father has given us. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,
Bob Haar

WHO'S WHO AT FIRST ST. JOHN

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Senior Pastor	Robert W. Blohm, Jr.	419-691-9524	pastorblohm@sbcglobal.net
Pastoral Assistant	Bob Haar	419-340-0945	bob.haar@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Toni Wilbarger	419-691-7222	firststjohn@sbcglobal.net
Sunday School Superintendent	Deb Ladd	419-691-5594	jladd45166@aol.com
Custodian	Gene Hagedorn	419-693-5687	
Dayschool	Barb Shellhammer	419-691-6480	bshellhammer@sbcglobal.net
Director of Music	John Rowley	419-698-3492	jrowley@toledosua.org
Organist	Norma Ridener	419-537-0145	rideners@att.net
Handbell Choir	Cheri Johnson		cj_48@sbcglobal.net
Children's Choir	Betty Hyre	419-836-9320	chyre@woh.rr.com
Youth Director	TBA		
Council President	Bill Caldwell	419-698-3285	billcathyc@buckeye-express.com
Treasurer	Lisa Anderson	419-693-1232	ljanderson@bex.net
Recording Secretary	Esther Bell	419-693-8118	estherhbell@sbcglobal.net
Financial Secretary	Duane Hubaker	419-691-7886	
Finance Committee	Jim Sommers	419-691-7719	somaga@aol.com
Memorials	Esther Bell	419-693-8118	estherhbell@sbcglobal.net
Property Management	Gary Henningsen	419-836-9650	
Elder Chairman	Bernie Erdmann	419-698-8063	erdmann12149@buckeye-express.com
Special Funds	Bill Caldwell	419-698-3285	billcathyc@buckeye-express.com
Altar Guild President	Laurie Witt	419-836-9702	ljwitt@hotmail.com
Altar Guild Flowers	Karyl Antoine	419-697-1693	KARYL1961@yahoo.com
WELCA President	Jean DeWitt	419-698-8963	jeandewitt@juno.com
Board of Education	Karen Holmes Jessika Wilson Pam Beavers	419-691-3225 419-215-9054 419-691-3929	wilson7934@woh.rr.com PJB1155@aol.com
Prayer Chain	Lynn Folk	419-691-3410	hpyhmker@sbcglobal.net
Librarian	Marilyn Cashen	419-698-2363	CMarilyn37@netscape.com
Reader Coordinator	Marion Fouty	419-693-0940	info@foutywaterjet.com
Worship Life	Bob Haar	419-340-0945	bob.haar@sbcglobal.net

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

6-8-08 *Skylar Dominique Muchewicz*,
born September 29, 2007 to Jarrod
and Stacey (Bartok) Muchewicz.
Sponsors are Lisa Bartok and
Matthew Galka.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

None.

Transfers to First St. John:

None.

Transfers from First St. John: Michael &
Kathleen Sherwood to St. Stephen's Lutheran
Church in Sylvania.



ELDERS FOR JULY

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:45 am</u>
7/6	Mark Ackerman Janine Contat	Mike Winslow LuAnn Schuffenecker
7/13	Darold Henninger Joanne Henningsen	Dick Haar Lynn Folk
7/20	Jeff Smith Linda Kusian	Bernie Erdmann Sherrie Haar
7/27	Mike Winslow LuAnn Schuffenecker	Mark Ackerman Janine Contat

E-MAILING YOUR NEWSLETTER



To have this newsletter and calendar e-mailed to you, call the church or send your e-mail address to: firststjohn@sbcglobal.net

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregiver Support Group will meet Wed., July 2nd at 7 pm in the lounge. These monthly meetings are for anyone who provides care for a loved one and needs the support of others with similar issues. The facilitator is Donna Koehn, LSW, LINC'S Program Coordinator, and member of First St. John. Co-sponsored by First St. John and Lutheran Homes Community Services.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Trevor Ault, recipient of the new Winslow Scholarship, which provided \$1,000 to help pay for Trevor's future schooling. Great job!

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Rev. Gerald & Ilean Labuhn
2625 Luverne Ave.
Oregon, OH 43616

Barry & Michelle Layman
340 Plymouth St.
Toledo, OH 43605
(Taylor, Tristan, Barry)

Kellie Torda
3500 Coral Way #709
Miami, FL 33145

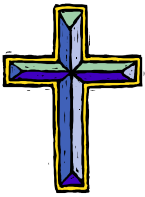
ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Shirley Schumaker** by Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Louise & Jim Sommers, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, Ada Kreger, Carl & Janet Morrison, Kenneth Arndt, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, George & Elaine Ackerman, Gene & Elnore Groll, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Ruth & Paul Price, Pat Stozcheff-Lacumsky & Ted Ehram, Marilyn Cashen, Donna & Bernard Cedoz, Edith Schuffenecker, Don & Alma Diefenthaler, Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger, Bob & Kate Webb, August Lofquist, Martha Meyers, Donna Koester, Don & Dorothy Dippman, Ethel Rideout, Joanne & Ron Koch, Todd, Susan & Alex Rathke, Viola Nelson, Verlene Schweizer and family, Kenneth Schumaker, Glenn & Margaret Koester, Jack Billings.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Shirley Schumaker** by Bob & Sherrie Haar, Gary & Penny DeWitt, Jean DeWitt.

BETTY HYRE'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR

In memory of **Shirley Schumaker** by Olga Zimmerman.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Shirley Schumaker** by Gene Hagedorn.

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of **Larry Skees** by George & Elaine Ackerman.

In memory of **Eileen Otersen** by Paul & Mary Rang.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Dorothy Brown** by Ada Kreger.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY NEWS

We will not meet anymore this summer. We will resume again in September.

GET READY FOR VBS: POWER LAB!



Where kids discover Jesus' miraculous power through exciting worship, Bible adventures, games, crafts, and don't forget the yummy treats!! Being thankful, helping others, being brave, living forever (eternally), and telling others about God are all great Bible points that will be learned July 27-31 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

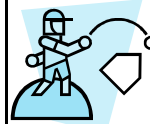
To register: forms are in the lounge, or call the church office, or register on-line: www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/firststjohn
If you want to volunteer or have any questions, feel free to call Abbie Skorupa at 419-346-1752. Let's discover Jesus' miraculous power!

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please turn in any bulletin announcements for the July 27th and August 3rd bulletins by noon on July 22nd. Toni will be on vacation the week of July 27th, returning on August 4th. Thank you.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR DONATIONS NEEDED

Canned goods and non-perishable food donations are down. Please remember those less fortunate by donating food items to Feed Your Neighbor. Place your donations in the bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or the lounge (near the double doors). Thanks.



CO-ED SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Our co-ed softball team plays on Sunday afternoons at Woodsdale Park across from the Toledo Zoo parking lot. Come out and cheer us on!

7/6	2:00 pm	vs. Central United	Diamond #1
7/13	2:00 pm	vs. Pilgrim	Diamond #1
7/20	2:00 pm	vs. Grace 1	Diamond #1
7/27	2:00 pm	vs. Reformation	Diamond #1



DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF SCRAMBLES

This four-man scrambles will be held on Saturday, August 9th at 8:00 am at the Chippewa Golf Club. The price is \$60 per person, which includes green fees, cart, and food (burgers and brats and sides). Prizes will be awarded for first place, the longest drive and closest to the pin. Reservation deadline is Saturday, August 2nd and all fees must be turned in by Monday, August 4th. **All proceeds go to First St. John.** To register or sponsor a hole, call Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or 419-698-6507.

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION

If you know anyone who might be a candidate for the Youth Director position here at First St. John, please have them send their resume to the church or call the office at 419-691-7222 or email Pastor at pastorblohm@sbcglobal.net

First St. John Lutheran Church
Attn: Pastor Robert Blohm
2471 Seaman St.
Toledo, OH 43605-1519

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE



We're trying something new with this project. Empty shoeboxes are in the Narthex and the lounge. Pick one or more boxes and a pamphlet with the list of suggested items you can fill the boxes with. Once filled, return the shoeboxes to the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

CONFIRMATION PICTURES

Confirmation pictures are in the church office. Summer office hours: Mon. - Fri. from 9am - 2pm.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Our next meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 5th at Frisch's Big Boy on Navarre Ave. If you plan to attend, call Bob Haar at 419-360-7510. Transportation will be provided if needed. Hope you can join us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



While we don't usually print everyone's birthdays in the newsletter (WAY too many names), this time we're making an exception. Everyone here at First St. John would like to wish Elenore Taylor a happy birthday. Ellie, who is Olga Zimmerman's aunt, turns 105 years old on June 27th. Happy Birthday, Ellie!

MILITARY ADDRESSES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. You can send cards or packages to these service people, and remember to pray for them, too!

SSGT Kevin Fouty
2021 A Mustang Ct.
Langley AFB, VA 23665

CPL Nick Grady
CLB-1 CCO OPS PLT
Unit 42390
FPD-AP96426

Cynthia Lynn Henderson
6088 B Flying Gator Run
Jacksonville, FL 32212

Chief Petty Officer Marc Le Duc
3105 Tullibee Circle P-1
Silverdale, WA 98315

SSGT Matthew Phillips (temporary address)
23021 W. Curtice Rd
Curtice, OH 43412

1 LT. Lindsey Rowland (Lindsey is in Iraq)
109 TRANS Co / 57 JTLF
APO AE 09366

GMSA SWANSON CHRISTOPHER
1474 GILBERT ST.
CEP 162
PCD TRUXTON DDG103
NORFOLK, VA 23511 (*capitalize all letters*)

First St. John's Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

(As of June 23, 2008)

We welcome all prayer chain additions, however, PLEASE have the permission of the person to be put on the list or of an immediate family member. Thanks.

Crisis Prayer List

This is for those who need prayer in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Names will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after the first month unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:

**Ty Klocko
Julie Klosterman
Gene Patterson
Dorothy Zeadker**

Chronic Prayer List

This is for those who need prayer 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 notified of special circumstances:

**Lola Abbey
Kara Albrecht
Halie Anderson Family
Dick Bailey
Virginia Brandeberry
Dorothy Brown Family
Marjorie Counterman
Jeff Duncan
Bud Eggert Family
Ervin Family
Rick Fouty
Dick Gingrich Family
Justin Heath
LaVerne Klawitter
Connie Lajzer
Laurie Madrazo
Jean Ross
Diane Smith
Candy Webster
Sally Winstead
Virginia Wright
Ken Yard**

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

Prayer Chain Contacts

Lynn Folk 691-3410 hpyhmker@sbcglobal.net
Donna Koehn 693-5030
Ada Kreger 693-1549
Gloria Ross 836-7166

LIBRARY NEWS



GOD'S LITTLE DEVOTIONAL

BOOK for couples is in the library. This devotional will give you cause for reflection and help you build a loving and happy marriage. It covers topics that couples will understand and includes the timeless wisdom of the Bible.

Did you know that the biography section of the library is located north of the windows in the lounge. Check it out!

"You have a lifetime to enjoy one another. Don't waste a day of it!" James Dobson

— Maryilyn Cashen

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

An ELCA Disaster Alert is being sent to you as I write with information about how you can help in recovery. Please join me in an outpouring of love that is equal not only to the depth of the waters, but even more to the fullness of Jesus' life in us and to the Spirit's renewing work in the world. We will be the body of Christ to those who yearn for a comforting presence. We will be the gentle hands that hold those who yearn for the healing that Jesus brought. Through our service God will speak their names and hold them as a treasured possession.

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Isaiah 43:1-3)

Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JULY 18th

FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—JUNE 17, 2008

President Bill Caldwell brought the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Sherrie Haar led devotions. Roll call was taken. LuAnn Schuffenecker made a motion to approve the May minutes. Bernie Erdmann seconded the motion – motion carried.

Bill Caldwell spoke on the attendance at our church services and discussed different options for service times.

TREASURER’S REPORT/FINANCE

COMMITTEE – Jim Sommers reported we need \$6200 a week in the current fund to meet budget. We were \$3700 ahead, but we got behind in May, and June is worse. Maintenance has already used 60% of its budget. Jim and Lisa were able to get a 60 day extension on our loan option while we wait for an estimate on the back parking lot. Larry Paul made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Linda Kusian seconded the motion – motion carried. The Youth’s books were audited by Duane Hubaker and were found to be in order. The Youth used to have a debit card, but the finance committee would rather see them have a credit card. Mike Folk made a motion to get a resolution to get a credit card. Lynn Folk seconded the motion – motion carried. The Dayschool area could use an upgrade by painting. An estimate was received at \$6592. Dayschool would be willing to pay \$2000. The remainder could come from the improvement loan.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – Pam Beavers reported they canceled Summer Sunday School for the 3 year olds through the 6th grade due to lack of attendance. Abbie Skorupa will be in charge of Vacation Bible School. The board will meet next month to discuss Rally Day and the fall schedule.

ELDERS – Bernie Erdmann reported Darold Henninger and Mark Ackerman worked on the speaker system. They were checking on the wedding schedule.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - Mike Folk reported Eric Johnson accepted the open position. Mike welcomed Eric.
Completed items: the parking lot across the street has been resealed and re-striped;

a faucet in the secretary’s office was fixed; a broken water line in the cemetery was fixed. The garage doors were adjusted. Two toilets in the Dayschool were repaired. Cardboard recycling seems to be working well. If you can help, please take a load out to Pearson Park.

They are looking for estimates for either asphalt or concrete for the back parking lot.

There was no progress report on air conditioning. Ron Witt did some tuck point on the garage, and Gene Schacht will be doing some varnishing.

YOUTH – Bill Caldwell reported they have ads out for a new director. So far one application has arrived. Mike and Lynn Folk and Lisa Anderson are lining up the King’s Island trip.

PASTOR – Pastor Blohm reported the following transfer: Michael and Kathleen Sherwood to St. Stephens Lutheran in Sylvania.
New Members: Melanie Grady and Ashley Grady and Julie Stausmire and Kari Stausmire to First St. John.

Bernie Erdmann made a motion to accept the transfer and new members. Dick Haar seconded the motion – motion carried.

Bob Haar reported that the Men’s Ministry meetings are being attended by between 10 and 14 men. The next one will be July 5th at 8 a.m. at Frisch’s on Navarre Ave.

OLD BUSINESS – There will be a chaperone meeting for King’s Island. Lynn Folk is making arrangements for the trip.

NEW BUSINESS – There will be no meeting scheduled for July and August. Bill Caldwell asked council to pray for help in planning service times for the fall.

Pastor Blohm closed the meeting with everyone praying the Lord’s Prayer at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Bell, Recording Secretary