



First St. John Journal



Volume 21, Issue 12

December, 2008

According to something called the PNC Christmas Index, inflation is making it nearly impossible for the average middle class person to buy all the items in the Christmas carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Here’s the breakdown:

- Partridge: \$15
- Pear Tree: \$150
- Two Turtle Doves: \$40
- Three French Hens: \$45
- Four Calling Birds (canaries): \$600
- Five Gold Rings: \$395
- Six Geese-a-Laying: \$360
- Seven Swans a-Swimming: \$4,200
- Eight Maids a-Milking: \$47
- Nine Ladies Dancing (per performance): \$4,759
- Ten Lords-a-Leaping (per performance): \$4,285
- Eleven Pipers Piping (per performance): \$2,213,

and

Twelve Drummers Drumming (per performance): \$2,398

That’s a grand total of \$78, 100 for the Twelve Days of Christmas. Yet, even in this troubled world, even today, God’s grace and love is absolutely free. All it really takes is a humble and a believing heart, a heart of faith, a heart that believes that God sent that Baby to forgive our sins and die for our sins, so that we would receive the Gift of Eternal Life.

Come and join us as we worship the One who came to give us the free gift of life – Jesus.

— Pastor Blohm

Project: Give a Blessing

Attention Students and Congregation:

We have the amazing opportunity of helping three area families in need this Christmas season. Two families are asking for help with gifts and a holiday meal, and the third family only needs help with their holiday meal. We are asking for your support by providing gifts for these families. A Christmas tree filled with paper ornaments is located in the Narthex. On each ornament is a detailed gift recommendation along with gender and age to help you choose the appropriate gift. When returning the gift please return the ornament with the listed gift recommendation. **Please place the gifts in a box located outside the youth director’s office (next to the church office) by Tuesday, December 16th.** You will not have to wrap this gift. The youth will have a wrapping party on December 17th. It is our prayer that, as a church, we do these blessings throughout our life as believers. Thank you in advance for your help!



Blessings, Your Board of Education

Genesis 12:3 “You were blessed...to be a blessing.”

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
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	Mary Darling	740-358-6060	mdarling05@yahoo.com
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 Melissa Lang Pam Beavers	419-691-3225 419-837-1005 419-691-3929	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



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Births None.

Baptisms

11-16-08 *Catrina Joelle Carlo*, born July 24, 2008 to Tony and Angel (Dedmon) Carlo. Sponsors are Shannon and Steve George.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

11-1-08 Emma Harmon
11-13-08 Richard Hosley

Transfers To/From First St. John

None.

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our next gathering is Sat., Dec. 6th at 8:00 am at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. Call Bob Haar at 419-360-7510 to let him know if you are planning to attend so he can arrange for enough seating. Also let him know if you need transportation. Thanks!

JANUARY NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Your January newsletter will arrive the week of January 4 because of the holiday schedule.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregiver Support Group is for anyone who provides care for a loved one and needs the support of others. We next meet Wed., Dec. 3rd at 7 pm in the lounge. The facilitator is Donna Koehn, LSW, LINCS Program Coordinator, and member of First St. John. Co-sponsored by First St. John and Lutheran Homes Community Services.

ELDERS FOR DECEMBER

<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
7th Dick Haar	Darold Henninger
Joanne Henningsen	Lynn Folk
14th Bernie Erdmann	Jeff Smith
Penny DeWitt	Linda Kusian
21st Mark Ackerman	Mike Winslow
Janine Contat	LuAnn Schuffenecker
<u>7:00 pm</u>	<u>11:00 pm</u>
24th Darold Henninger	Linda Kusian
	Joanne Henningsen

10:00 am
25th Bernie Erdmann
Janine Contat

<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
28th Darold Henninger	Dick Haar
Joanne Henningsen	Lynn Folk



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Musical Christmas program is Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 am in the church. Children need to be at Sunday School by 8:45 am. This is a wonderful, original musical program written and directed by Betty Hyre.

There will be refreshments immediately after the program, which will be finished prior to the Celebration service. Please attend and support our children!



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for the office, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify us by faxing (419-691-7220), or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or email: firststjohn@sbcglobal.net

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of **David Anderson** by Bonnie Varga.
In memory of **Whitey Wagner** by Gary & Linda Kusian.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Peggy Hugueley** by Walt & Darlene Metzger.
In memory of **Lois Ackerman** by Lou & Marilyn Kozma, Brian & Jodi Cummerow, Gene & Elnore Groll, Gerald & Elinor Ehram, Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, Frank & Donna Schmidlin.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Lois Ackerman** by Eileen & Walt Young, Gary & Linda Kusian.
In memory of **Terry Zimmerman** by Gerald & Elinor Ehram.
In memory of **Emma Harmon** by Ernest & Marge Bollinger.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Ken Yard** by Ellie Symington, Jim & Peggy Barton.

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of **Emma Harmon** by Ruth Cummerow.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Emma Harmon** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Emma Harmon** by Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, Wilson & Genevieve Roecker, Howard & Phyllis Bookenger, Martha Hecklinger, Don & Jane St. John, Jim & Sheree Lambert, Mary & Bud Gartz, George & Alice Chapman, Jim & Betty Lou Miller.



ALTAR GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Altar Guild will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm in the lounge for their year-end meeting and Christmas dinner.

WHAT'S THIS ENVELOPE IN MY NEWSLETTER?

During Advent and at Lent, we offer the opportunity for members to help fund our local benevolences. If you wish to participate, you may write a check, place it in the envelope, and either mail it back to the church or place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

CHICKEN & HAM DINNER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Chicken & Ham dinner. We served 670 dinners and made a profit of over \$4,124 for WELCA.

HATS, GLOVES, MITTENS, SOCKS COLLECTION UPDATE



Thank you to everyone who donated socks, hats, gloves, and mittens for our drive. A special thank you to those people who took the time to make these items by hand (wow!). We had so many donations this year that we were able to provide many more items to needy children than we normally can. To Toledo Day Nursery, we sent 128 hats, 57 pairs of mittens, and 31 pairs of socks. To Riverside Elementary School, we sent 144 hats, 36 pairs of socks, 15 pairs of gloves, and 48 pairs of mittens. Thank you again for your donations. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

BELL CHOIR NEWS

The bell choir has changed its practice time to 5:30 pm on Monday evenings. Please make a note of it. ALSO, please help us welcome our newest bell choir members: Taylor Layman, Rachel Nelson, Olivia Marsh, Brooke Gallaher, and Diane Habegger.

ATTENTION CATECHISM STUDENTS & PARENTS



In December, we'll have regular classes on Monday, December 1 through the 15. On Monday, December 22, we'll have our catechism pizza party. Don't miss it! There will be no catechism on December 29 because of the holidays.



HOLIDAY SERVICES

Note: There will be no children's Sunday School on December 28th.

December 24th

11:30 am Chapel Prayer Service
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 25th

10:00 am Christmas Day Service/Communion

The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will reopen on Monday, December 29th. The office also will be closed on New Year's Day.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE CANCELLED

Because of dwindling attendance over the years, we will no longer hold New Year's Eve services.

MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS CHANGES

Janine & Greg Contat
136 Steel St.
Toledo, OH 43605

Cpl Nick Grady
4429 Mission Ave. #C204
Oceanside, CA 92057

Margaret Hosley
4900 Corfu Dr.
Cocoa, FL 32926

Betty Thomas
80 S. Wheeling St.—Apt. 300
Oregon, OH 43616

Kellie Torda
3000 S. Ocean Dr. Apt. 312W
Hollywood, FL 33019

2008 POINSETTIA SALE

Sponsored by the Altar Guild

Fill in the order blank below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Place your order form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to: **First St. John Altar Guild**

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 14, 2008.

No. of plants @ \$8.00 each _____

Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

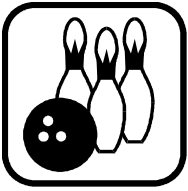
In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

In Honor of (Living):



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

DECEMBER 23



68th ANNUAL TOLEDO LUTHERAN BOWLING TOURNAMENT

This year's tournament for singles and doubles events will be Saturdays, March 7th & 21st at 1:00 pm. Team events will be held Sundays, March 8th & 22nd at noon. All events will take place at Bay Center Recreation Lanes in Oregon. There will be jackpots, mystery game, and 50/50 raffle to support the Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund. Candy bars will be given to those who shoot 25 pins over average; mugs will be given to those who shoot 50 pins over average. To sign up and for more information, please call Steve Mawhorter at 419-343-0957 or email mawhorters@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Poinsettias for our homebound members will be in the lounge beginning December 8th. Please take a moment to pick up a plant and deliver it to one of our homebound members. Thank you.



ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas party will be Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 pm in the gym. Dinner will be provided, so there's no need to bring a dish! Our program will feature the Hoffenheimer Sisters, a musical duo who "wowed" the crowd at our All-Daughter Banquet in 2007. (See the posters around the church.) A freewill offering will be taken to help offset the cost of the dinner. Poinsettias on the tables will go to our homebound members, so feel free to take one and visit with them for a few minutes during the week. If you plan to attend, please fill out the slip below and mail, fax, or drop it off to the church office by Wednesday, December 3rd. Or, you may place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Yes, I/we will attend the Adult Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 pm

Name(s) _____

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Our annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, December 14th at both services. We'll vote on the 2009 budget and new council members. The proposed budget is included in this newsletter. If you have questions about the budget, please call Jim Sommers at 419-691-7719 or 419-297-7420.

MILITARY SERVICE NOTES

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
4429 Mission Ave. #C204
Oceanside, CA 92057

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
2611 10th Ave. S.
Suite 2, Box 263
Great Falls, MT 59405

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*)

Dayschool News

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." — Isaiah 9:6

It's hard to believe Christmas is almost here! The time goes by so quickly. The children are a joy as we discover and learn together. This month, we'll experience the awe and wonder of the true meaning of Christmas: God came to earth as the baby Jesus. We hope the excitement grows as the children learn the story of Jesus' birth and prepare for the programs they will share with family and friends. They will learn that Advent means "coming," and we must use the next four weeks to get ready for the special birth. They will learn the best present is Jesus and He is from a God who loves us all!

Our Christmas programs are in church the week of Dec. 10. Preschoolers perform Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:45. Kindergarteners perform Thursday at 2:00. You are welcome to join us!

We plan to carol at the Lutheran Home and the Alzheimer's Day Center. This is a gift the children love to give, and it is a moving experience for all. This is part of our ministry we pray to strengthen. Listening to older adults share memories of their childhood and watching the connections form between students and the residents brings us so much joy!

Our focus on the true meaning of Christmas will culminate with a Birthday party for Baby Jesus. A long-standing tradition here is the Spanish custom of La Posadas when we walk through the halls knocking on doors and looking for room for Baby Jesus. Finally we end up in church where a Nativity scene is set up. We are so happy when we finally find room and are allowed to enter! Back in our classrooms, we each get a cupcake with a candle and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

Please pray our children will follow the teachings of a God who loves them so much He gave them His Son, and that our teachers be renewed and continue to serve God through serving children.

We, the Dayschool staff, wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas season.

Merry Christmas From Us All

RENEW Student Ministry December Schedule

Dec. 3, 7:00 pm. RENEW planning. Volunteers and students welcome!

Dec. 10, 5:00 pm – Lights Before Christmas. Meet at church at 5:00 pm, and we'll get dinner beforehand. Please RSVP by December 8th so we can get tickets (price will be only \$7 if 20 or more people can go!).

Dec. 17, 5:00 pm – Gift Wrapping Party! Bring two tubes of wrapping paper with you, along with money for pizza. We'll blast Christmas music and have a great time!

TBA— We'll deliver gifts. Watch bulletins and future announcements for the exact day and time.

**Don't forget to help with
Project: Give a Blessing!** (See page 1)

*"I am the vine and you are the branches."
— John 15:5*

**Contact Mary (mdarling05@yahoo.com)
with questions.**

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2009 will be in the lounge in December through the end of January. They will be on tables in alphabetical order. Envelopes are issued to confirmed and contributing members and, upon request, friends who worship with us.

If a husband and wife share offering envelopes, the designation "M/M" and the husband's name will appear on the box. (The computer allows only one name per number assigned.)

If you have not had offering envelopes and would like to receive them, or if there is a correction to your address or name, call the church office at 419-691-7222.

Reminder: Please do not use your 2009 envelopes until January 4th. Anyone who wants a contribution included on their 2008 statement must turn it in to the office by Wednesday, December 31, 2008.

First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

(As of November 19, 2008)

Crisis Prayer List

For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Persons will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after the first month unless the prayer chain is contacted about special circumstances:

**Larry Amsler
Linda Curran
Walter Felder
Marlene Fouty
Bishop Sanchez
Dennis Scott
Leroy Smith**

Chronic Prayer List

For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Persons will be moved off the list after 3 months unless the prayer chain is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

**Lola Abbey
Family of Lois Ackerman
Kara Albrecht
Family of Dick Bailey
Family of Jack Billings
Virginia Brandeberry
Family of Don & Melinda Ciesielczyk
Marjorie Counterman
Jordan Cummerow
Ronald Curtis
Tina Curtis
George Davenport & Family
Ed Ellis
Rick Fouty
Suzanne Garey
Eleanor Habegger
Justin Heath
Eric Holmes
Anne Okonski Jackson
LaVerne Klawitter
Julie & Jared Loucks
Laurie Madrazo
Family of Sharon Shinaver
Diane Smith
John Spoerl
Family of Austin Takacs
Betty Timbrook
Shirley Warnke
Candy Webster
Sally Winstead**

Family of Ken Yard

**Dorothy Zeadker
Bill Zeisler**

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed below-know if individuals can be moved off the list.

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410 hpyhmker@sbcglobal.net

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

WELCA BOARD MEETING NOTICE



The WELCA Board meeting will be Monday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. In addition to our regular meeting, we also will have a salad potluck, so be sure to bring a dish to share.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving the Altar Guild during the coming year, please contact the church office 419-691-7222 or Laurie Witt 419-836-9702.

LIBRARY NEWS

Favorite Christmas books: **A DIFFERENT KIND of CHRISTMAS** by Alex Haley

TWO from GALILEE by Marjorie Holmes

SHEPHERDS ABIDING by Jan Karon

CELEBRATING JESUS at CHRISTMAS

Also, the Walt Disney Christmas Video for the kids. There are other books to celebrate the holidays; come to the lounge and browse.

In January we have some new books for the library, and I am looking forward to sharing them with you.

*Share with all, our wonderful story,
Peace on Earth and goodwill toward men.*

—Marilyn Cashen



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—NOVEMBER 18, 2008



President Bill Caldwell brought the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Pastor Blohm gave the opening prayer. Bill introduced Mary Darling our new Youth Director. Roll call was taken. Gary Henningsen made a motion to approve the Oct. minutes. Bernie Erdmann seconded the motion – motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Lisa Anderson reported receipts were \$21,300 and disbursements were \$24,500 for the month of Oct., otherwise things were going as expected. Lynn Folk made a motion to accept the report. Joanne Henningsen seconded the motion – motion carried.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – Pam Beavers reported the Ladd’s were handling the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. They are concentrating on Feed Your Neighbor and the Youth’s families for Christmas. Melissa Lang and Betty Hyre are busy with the Christmas program.

YOUTH – Mary Darling reported they renamed their group as Renew Student Ministry. They want to create a new relationship. They are planning to have meetings on Wednesday nights after the first of the year. They will be wrapping gifts and delivering them to the families. There will be a meeting with parents and anyone that wants to help with the youth on Monday, Nov. 24.

DAY SCHOOL - Barb Shellhammer reported they are having Thanksgiving feasts this week. They will carol at the Lutheran Home. Their Christmas programs will be Dec. 16, 17, 18 & 19.

ELDERS – Bernie Erdmann reported they scheduled Thanksgiving eve and Christmas services. They also discussed baptisms.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Mike Folk reported they replaced the thermostat in the sanctuary. The time on the old unit was off by 6 hours. They built a 4’ X 4’ sign to advertise the Chicken & Ham dinner, installed curtains in ladies restroom, repaired leaking drain in big kitchen and postponed installing new flag pole due to rain and wind. The railing for the back door is due in Dec. They’re investigating installing a tv in the nursery so services can be viewed there. They will meet with Campbell Nov. 24 for preventative maintenance in

the boiler system. Mike proposed making Jim Schumaker honorary Trustee for business reasons when working on the boilers. Gary Henningsen so moved. Bernie Erdmann seconded the motion – motion carried.

FINANCE – Jim Sommers presented the 2009 budget. They were able to reduce debt payments from \$6,000 to \$4,809.84. Insurance and real estate taxes are up. Office expense/alarm increased by \$300. Maintenance supplies are up almost \$700. Gas is up \$3,000. With no assistant pastor and a 2 ½ % raise for the staff, the 2009 total budget is \$318,408.78, down from 2008’s \$324,368.60. Gary Henningsen thanked the finance committee for their hard work.. Gary then made a motion to approve presenting the budget to the congregation. LuAnn Schuffenecker seconded the motion – motion carried. We received a letter from Fifth Third saying we were receiving \$25,000 from the Nordmann estate. The money was put in our reserve fund.

PASTOR – Pastor Blohm reported he had one more wedding in Dec. He welcomed Mary Darling. He mentioned that no flash pictures are to be taken during baptisms. Abbie Skorupa will be doing children’s sermons on occasion.

OLD BUSINESS – Lisa Anderson reported the Kroger cards are still for sale and they received a \$400 check again for the Youth and Sunday School.

NEW BUSINESS – President Bill Caldwell announced there is still an opening for elder. They only have 3 names for 4 spots. Running for elder: Bernie Erdmann, Dick Haar & Linda Kusian. For Finance Committee – Chris Hunsaker and Laurie Witt. Board of Education – Karen Holmes, and for Trustees – Eric Johnson, Dave Warnke and Keith Mullen. Gary Henningsen made a motion to present the slate of candidates plus one more elder to the congregation for vote. Darold Henninger seconded the motion - motion carried.

Gary Henningsen made a motion to adjourn. Mark Ackerman seconded the motion – motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,