# ◆ First St. John Journal ◆

Volume 22, Issue 9 September 2009

he calendar, for better or worse, always seems to tell us the truth, and the old calendar tells us that summer is fleeting and fall is coming.

- 1. Do you feel as if you're always in a pickle, stuck in a traffic jam? Do you feel sometimes as if too many things are happening in your life and that you're schedule is just jampacked from morning to evening? Well, all children from 3 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come to our Sunday School, which has a new name: J.A.M.,which stands for Jesus and Me. Come and check out the J.A.M. fest (used to be called Rally Day) on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10 AM!
- 2. Lots of people have read and been inspired by the book "The Shack," and many people have said they would like to study it and talk about it in light of what the Bible says. Well, we are going to do just that. Read "The Shack" and join us for a study of this book. We begin on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.
- 3. We will be having a special, surprise preacher and presentation coming up in the month of October concerning one of the biggest issues this area is facing. Details are being worked out, so keep an eye out in the bulletin.

See you in Church.

— Pastor Blohm

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 6th

There will be a congregational meeting during both services on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. A presentation will be made explaining construction and financing for the back parking lot. We will vote to approve the financing method.

#### TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Lots of people have read and been inspired by the book "The Shack." Many people have said they would like to study it in light of what the Bible says. Well, we are going to do just that. Read "The Shack" and join us for a study of this book. We begin on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.

# PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you're interested or if you need more information, please call Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL— JESUS AND ME! (J.A.M.)

Sunday School has a new name! It has been renamed J.A.M., which stands for Jesus and Me. We will celebrate the beginning of J.A.M. with a JAM-fest (formerly known as Rally Day) on Sunday, September 13th from 9:00-10:00 a. m. All children from 3 years old to 6th grade are welcome to join us in the gym for a craft, game, snack, & puppet show during this hour. Please fill out a registration form for your child(ren) before that day (if possible) so we know how many children plan to attend. A registration form is in this newsletter, or you can pick one up in the lounge or Narthex.

# STAFFED NURSERY NOW AVAILABLE

Our nursery is now staffed during both services. If you'd like to take your child to the nursery, you will find it in the church basement just past the RENEW youth room.

#### **ELDERS NEEDED**

The elders need three or four new members beginning in 2010. Elders open the church in the morning, close it after services, assist with communion, assist members during the service as needed, and much more. If you would like more information or are interested, please call Bernie Erdmann at 419-698-8603.

# REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME

On Tuesday, September 8th, church office hours return to Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The office will be closed for Labor Day.

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Save the date! Because the Labor Day weekend falls on the first Saturday in September, the men's fellowship breakfast will be Saturday, September 12 at 8:00 a.m. We will again meet at Bob Evans on Navarre Avenue.

Now that autumn is just around the corner, let's get back into the habit of meeting, sharing a meal, and having fellowship together. If you have any questions or if you need a ride, please call Bob Haar at 419-360-7510.

# Member Address Changes

Ryan & Kate Hugueley 538 Bridgewater Dr. Oregon, OH 43616 (Addison)

Floyd Koester Lutheran Home Assisted Living–Apt. 33 2519 Seaman St. Toledo, OH 43605

#### MIRIAM CIRCLE MEETING

The Miriam Circle will meet Wednesday, September 2nd at 9:30 am. Pastor Labuhn will be leading our Bible study for the new season.

#### **RUTH CIRCLE MEETING**

The Ruth Circle meets Tues., September 1st at 11:00 a.m. in the lounge for their regular meeting. They will be studying Chapter 6 in "God's Answers To Life's Difficult Questions," written by Rick Warren.

# **ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

9/6	7:45 am Darold Henninger Joanne Henningsen	10:15 am Dick Haar Lynn Folk
9/13	Jeff Smith Linda Kusian	Janine Contat Eric Johnson
9/20	Mike Winslow LuAnn Schuffenecker	Mark Ackerman Bernie Erdmann
9/27	Dick Haar Joanne Henningsen	Darold Henninger Lynn Folk

#### ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name		
Address		
City, State Zip	Phone	

# A POEM FOR OUR CHILDREN.

A promise was made On your baptismal day We'd lead you to Jesus We'd teach you to pray.

As your church family We want you to see That Jesus loves you And so do we!

We, your Board of Education, have been meeting throughout the summer to brainstorm ways to improve our Sunday school program. First, we have changed the name. Sunday school will now be referred to as J.A.M., which stands for Jesus and Me. Second, we have been trying to find an appropriate space for our young JAM members to meet for lessons, singing and worship. We also would like to have an area where parents could gather for fellowship during the JAM hour. Lastly, we are purchasing a new curriculum that is more hands-on and child-centered.

During our discussions we realized we cannot do this without help from our fellow members. As the poem above reminds us, we as a congregation promised to help teach children about Jesus. So we would like to have a group of people who would be our JAM support system. This group is not being asked to teach the children every Sunday. Instead we need people who would be willing to do any (but not all) of the following as needed:

- E-mail and/or phone parents to remind them of special events
- Provide materials needed for a special project
- Prepare materials needed for a craft (simple cutting and coloring)
- Be an extra pair of hands during a JAM hour
- Donate door prizes for various purposes (toys, gift certificates, video games, etc,)

If we have a large support system, then we can rotate the tasks and a little can be done by a lot.

(continued at top of next column)

We hope you are as excited about these upcoming changes as we are and will consider being a part of this group. If you are interested, please contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or e-mail her at cheh17@aol.com

Sincerely, Julie Gallaher Karen Holmes Melissa Lang

#### **DARTBALL NEWS**

Our first practice for both First St. John teams is Monday, September 28th at 7:00 pm in the gym. We're always looking for new players. If you'd like to join us, contact Team 1 captain Ted Mitchell (419-691-3230) or Team 2 captain Bill Nelson (419-836-4165). We play the first and third Monday evenings (and fifth, if the month has a fifth Monday) at 7:30 pm. Our first game is Monday, October 5th. See you soon!



# LUTHERAN MEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE BOWLERS NEEDED

We bowl at Interstate Lanes in Rossford at 7:30 pm and start practice at 7:15. Since 1969, this league has awarded over \$120,000 in scholarship money to Lutheran seminary students. Our 2009 / 2010 season starts September 14<sup>th</sup>. Teams of five men to represent First St. John would be great! If you're interested, please call Steve Mawhorter at 419-343-0957 or email mawhorters@yahoo.com

# LIBRARY NEWS

Three books by Wanda E. Brunstetter have been donated to the library by Joanne Koch. They are **PLAIN** and **FANCY**, **LOOKING** for a MIRACLE, and A MERRY HEART. These are inspirational stories about the Amish and their families.

Something to ponder on: Some minds are like concrete — thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

— Marilyn Cashen



# WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED Come Sing With Us!!!

If you're of catechism age or older and love to sing the praise songs in church, we'd love to have you join us! Beginning September 5th, we will meet on Saturdays at 10:00 am. We're always looking for new members, and you're never too "old" to join. Come see us Saturdays at 10:00 am.

# ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 2009 MEMORY WALK at TOLEDO ZOO



This year's walk will be Sunday, September 20th at the Toledo Zoo. Registration starts at 10:30 am, and the Walk starts at noon. Anyone interested in joining First St. John's team, please go on-line to: http://toledomemorywalk2009.kintera.org/1ststjohnluthchurch

You can register to be a walker and set your own personal goal for donation requests. Talk with your family and friends about becoming involved in this very worthy cause. As a group, we can truly reach out and help others. If you have any questions, call or email: Janine Contat 419-693-5183 or j9swancont@hotmail.com, or June Might 419-662-8024 or bugmight@sbcglobal.net

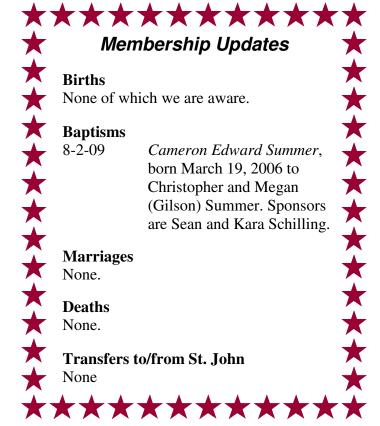
#### **BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**

Come on out and join the Bell choir! Our first practice is Monday, September 14th at 5:30 pm. No experience necessary! Hope to see you there.

#### FEEL LIKE SINGING? SO DO WE!

Time for choir! If you are high school age or older and love to sing, then come and join us! Practice is on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 pm. *Hope to see you there!* 





## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Blohm will lead adult Bible classes on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge beginning September 13th. Please take this opportunity to gather for coffee and fellowship every Sunday.

#### BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

Our Brown Bag Bible Study continues on Thursday, September 10th at noon in the lounge. Bring your lunch; coffee and water will be provided. Pastor Blohm will lead the Bible study. Please come for lunch, fellowship, and study. Everyone is welcome!

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL



Harvest Festival will be Sunday, September 20th. If you are donating produce, please have the food here by Saturday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Also, help is needed to put quilts in the pews. If you can come on Saturday, September 19th, please call Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822. Thank you!

# RENEW—COLLEGE BREAK— MERGE YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS!!

Dear Students and Families,

I am grateful and thankful to be in ministry with all of you. Ever since I have been here at First St. John, God has laid a vision on my heart for the student ministry and the future of the church. During this summer God has been working out some of this vision through a mid-week service for students in 7-12 grade. We will be combining with St. Mark's on Woodville for this service (Merge!). The purpose of this service is to bring students together to learn about God and His plan for our lives! We will meet every Wednesday for games, worship, and discussions on the Word and our lives. There will be also opportunities to serve the community, as well as finding time to get down and party!

Our focus verse is Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." This verse really fits this service and what we are trying to create.

If you have any questions about this or would like to volunteer specifically with this component of the Student Ministry please let me know. You can check us out on Facebook. Check out the rad logo of Merge too!

Blessings! Mary

## September Schedule

#### September 13th - Jam Fest 9 AM

We will be in charge of the craft, game, and snack. If you are interested in helping with this please sign-up with Mary. There will be a set-up time TBA!

#### **September 16**

MERGE VOLUNTEER MEETING @7PM in the church lounge

## September 19 - Point Fest

Leaving the church @ 11AM and returning late Saturday night!

#### <u>September 20 - Alzheimer's Memory Walk at Toledo Zoo</u>

If you want to walk, please let Mary know or sign-up ASAP on-line at: http://ToledoMemoryWalk2009.kintera.org/1ststjohnluthchurch The Walk begins at noon. Registration begins at 10:30 am. This is a great way to raise support and fellowship among our church. So come out and walk with us!

#### **September 23 - MERGE Service Starts!**

@7PM @ St. Mark's Lutheran on Woodville.

#### September 27 - RENEW Student Ministry Sunday School Kick-Off @ 9 AM

COME TO OUR CLASS FOR 7TH-12TH GRADERS! GET READY FOR SOME DELICIOUS BREAKFAST, TEACHING AND FELLOWSHIP!

#### <u>Collegebreak – October 9 @7PM</u>

You are invited to any Renew event. We will meet on October 9th @ 7PM for the study, "What to do with your wait."

# First St. John's Lutheran Church Prayer Chain (as of 8-25-09)

<u>Crisis Prayer List</u> Those who need prayers for upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals moved to Chronic list after 1st month unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:

Sandra Abramczyk
Matt Blaylock
Terry C.
Josh Cowan
Family of Linda Curran
John Deuble
Fran Ehrsam
Teresa Ellis
Jasmine Rae Hachuela
Monica Moszkowicz
Dominic Tucker
Noelle Walker

Chronic Prayer List Those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery, and/or personal situations. Individuals moved off list after 3 months unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:

Jim Ackerman **Nancy Ackerman** Lynne Bateman **Chris Burk** Douglas Burk **Marjorie Counterman Jackie Curtis Ronald Curtis Kelsev Engles Glenn Everett** Carly & Samantha Gardull **Jerry Gears Connie Koch Janet Roberts** Fred Saelzler Sharon (no last name given) Nancy Sniegocki **Shirley Vick Candy Webster Ruth Ziethlow** 

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

#### 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!

SPC Doherty, Steven D. Co. D 132nd BSB Camp Bucca APO AE 09375-0500

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

SGT Nick Grady 2711B Chow Circle Kailua, HI 96734

Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson 521 Pine Forest Trail Orange Park, FL 32073

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

Officer Candidate Pavley, Michael Class #009-08 3rd PLT. CHARLIE CO. 3-11th Infantry Regiment (OCS) 7480 Riordan St. Ft. Benning, GA 31905

Matthew Phillips 1 ERHG / Red Horse APO AE 09355

Captain Lindsey Rowland
(we do not currently have an address for her; please keep her in your prayers)

Grant Rowland BP 493 Kaolack Senegal, W. Africa

# WELCA GENERAL MEETING

The Women of the ELCA General Meeting will be Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm in the lounge.

Come to the WELCA General Meeting to find out all that Thrivent has to offer, including banking, financial advice, retirement planning, investment management, and community outreach. Diane Ninke and Derek Cipiti from Thrivent Financial will be our guest speakers and will share with us the variety of services Thrivent offers. Refreshments will be provided by Rebecca Circle.

Everyone is welcome, men included. We hope you can join us.

#### CPR / DEFIBRILLATOR CLASSES

The classes will be held here at First St. John on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to noon. Please call the church office to register for this class. Additional details will be in the bulletins and October newsletter.

#### HANNAH'S SOCKS

Hannah's Socks is an organization that began right here in Toledo. Hannah is now 6 years old, and she recognized a need at the Cherry Street Mission when she saw a man in line for food who had no cooks. His tags were sticking

for food who had no socks. His toes were sticking out of a hole in his shoe. Since then, Hannah and her mother have given away hundreds of pairs of socks for the needy in Toledo, branching out to serve many organizations in the Toledo area.

For our student missionary project, the kids from Vacation Bible School are collecting socks for the Hannah's Socks organization. This project began when a little girl named Hannah felt much compassion when she saw a homeless man who was without socks. Since then, she and her family have collected thousands of socks! We have already collected many socks, but we need your help to collect more! If you'd like to donate, there is a collection box in the Narthex. (Socks must be new!) For more information about Hannah's Socks, go online to www.hannahssocks.org

#### WEBSITE INFORMATION

If you have information to be posted to First St. John's website, please contact Diane Habegger using this email address: dihab53@gmail.com

## **ATTENTION CONGREGATION**

If you have any events you or your family is involved in, please keep us updated. These events will be put on the screen before the 10:15 service. Please send any announcements to Mary at mdarling05@yahoo.com.

#### E-MAILING THE NEWSLETTER

Help us trim the cost of sending out the newsletter. E-mailing not only saves postage, it also saves ink and paper. If you would like your newsletter and calendar e-mailed to you, please send your e-mail address to: firststjohn@sbcglobal.net

# DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF SCRAMBLES UPDATE

We held our annual golf outing on August 1st. Thank you to everyone who participated, whether you golfed, sponsored a hole, donated a door prize, etc. We had 22 hole sponsors and 105 golfers. The winning team was 14 under. We made \$4,600. Thanks everyone, and we'll see you next summer!

#### **CATECHISM BEGINS SOON**

Attention parents! If your child is entering either the 7th or 8th grade this year, please call the church office at 419-691-7222 to register for catechism. Catechism classes begin on Monday, August 31st at 6:30 pm.

# HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS & BOOTS NEEDED

WELCA will collect hats, mittens, and boots for local children during October. Hat & mitten sizes 0-5 go to the Toledo Day Nursery; sizes 6-Adult go to Riverside School. Also collecting toddler and preschool size socks and boots for Toledo Day Nursery. Place donations in the marked boxes in the Narthex and/or the lounge. Thank you.

# Chicken & Ham Dinner



Mark your calendars

for Saturday, November 7th— the biggest church event of the year! Delicious meals of chicken, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, and homemade desserts will be served from 4:00-7:00 p.m. This is a great community event, and it's not just for members. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers—they'll be glad you did!!!

<u>Tickets will be available in late September.</u> You may buy tickets from the church office or from circle members, or you can call Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. Tickets will go on sale after services in the lounge and narthex on October 25th and November 1st. And, yes, you can buy them at the door.

#### **Ticket Prices:**

Adults \$8.50 Children 3-12 yrs \$4.00

Children 2 yrs & under Free (still need ticket)

Watch your October bulletins and newsletter for more information and a sign up sheet with ways you can help.

# Needed: Craft & Bake Sale Items

We need items to sell at the Craft and Bake Sale held during the Chicken and Ham Dinner on November 7th. If you can help or if you would like to have your own craft table, please contact Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506 or Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719.

#### **BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING**

Our next Board of Ministries meeting will be Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm in the lounge. We hope you can attend.



#### ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Our next Altar Guild meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m.

#### DAYCHOOL NEWS

Dear Friends,

Another school year is beginning and we are excited to have the opportunity to teach young children about our Father and to watch their faith grow. It is a happy time around here, a time of new beginnings and new friendships. We know each child is a special gift from God and we thank Him for bringing them to us.

Our teachers have spent a great deal of time preparing for this new school year. They are committed to providing a Christ-centered learning environment for their students. We ask for God's blessing on the coming school year and your prayers that God will give us wisdom and joy as we teach His children!

We will begin visiting the Alzheimer's Day Center this month, a rich and rewarding experience for all involved. We are thankful we have the opportunity to participate in such a fulfilling ministry and form new connections with the clients of the Day Center.

If you would like to visit a classroom or have a special talent you think the children would be interested in, please call me at the Dayschool office at 419-691-6480, and we can schedule a time for your visit.

As always, thank you for your support. Our main objective is to lead children to Jesus, and without the support of this congregation, that could never be accomplished.

In service to His children, Barb Shellhammer

# Announcement

# "Everyone Deserves A Home"

August 19, 2009

## Dear Fellow Members of First St John,

I am writing to inform you about a program we will be supporting in our church in the next four months to help the Lutheran Home Society "Everyone Deserves A Home" Campaign of Caring.

God has truly blessed the Lutheran Homes Society, directing more than 100,000 people to its homes since 1860, when the first Orphans Home was established <u>right here on our campus</u>.

Now, however, the Society's aging care facilities, group homes, and schools are in need of renovation and upgrading to meet the changing needs of today's growing elderly population and disadvantaged youth. What none of us can do alone, God gives us the strength to do together. Thankfully, the Society's 165 member congregations have provided the prayers, volunteer leadership, and charitable support that help make these ministries possible.

During the coming months we will be sharing information with you on:

- The history of Lutheran Home Society and how First St. John played a big role in its development
- Overall Society services
- East Toledo campus services
- Lutheran Homes' vision for service and facility enhancement
- Opportunities for First St John members to share in Lutheran Homes Society ministries

I invite you and your family to learn about and become part of this ministry that meets the needs of so many elderly and youth each year.

Bill Caldwell
President Church Council

# FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—AUGUST 18, 2009

Meeting opened with prayer given by Eric Johnson. Roll was taken and minutes read from last meeting. The minutes were approved as read and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Dave Warnke, seconded by Dennis Pavley. The motion passed.

**Treasurers Report** - Lisa Anderson reported offerings given over the summer were not enough to cover expenses, which was not unusual for summer months. The increase in giving for the coming season hopefully will cover the shortfall created this summer. Gary Henningsen made a motion to approve the report, Bernie Erdmann seconded it. Motion passed.

**Elder Report** - Bernie Erdmann reported there will be 5 elders leaving this year, so council was asked to help look for replacements. Mike Winslow reported on his golf outing and awarded 2 scholarships for college to Eric Holmes and Heather Klatt. \$4600 was raised at the outing. There will be a class on how to use the defibrillator on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 12pm in the lounge.

**Dayschool Report** - Enrollment is where it should be for the upcoming year. The Dayschool will be having Christmas programs 5 evenings in December: the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00pm. Elders and any other volunteers were asked to help with these services.

Sunday School Report – The Sunday School committee gave a report on their upcoming J.A.M. Fest (Jesus and Me) day on September 13. They are currently working with Mary Darling and the Dayschool to free up some space for Sunday School. They will be giving a report on their findings.

**Property Management** - A downed tree branch was cleared out. They fixed the light that shines on the window above the altar.

Finance Committee - Jim Sommers spoke about the project for replacing the drive/parking area through the back of the church and out through the drive by the Lutheran Home. A quote for \$128,373.50 from ES Wagner was presented. Jim said this included a drainage system that will be re-routed to drain into Duck Creek through a detention pond. The parking

area also will be slightly reconfigured. Jim discussed how to finance this project. He explained that we are in debt \$45,117 for previous Church repairs. We have about \$82,000 in cash resources that we could apply to this debt. He then presented two options on how to finance this project.

Option one: Pay off the existing \$45,117 debt and borrow the \$128,373.50 from the bank.

Option two: Pay off the existing \$45,117 debt and borrow the \$100,000 from the bank and the balance of \$28,373.50 from the Special Funds account. He explained the purpose of using the Special Funds in option two was to provide a better rate than the Special Funds were earning in bank CD's, as well as reducing overall interest expense.

Discussion ensued on questions regarding construction and financing. A motion was made by Chris Hunsaker to pay off the existing debt, Gary Henningsen seconded it and the motion passed. Motion was then made by Gary Henningsen to borrow \$100,000 and get the rest from Special Funds, Chris Hunsaker seconded it. Motion passed. This will now go to the congregation for a vote on September 6.

Youth Report - Mary Darling reported in a slideshow format. She told us about her RENEW activities that begin in September by joining with St. Mark's youth group. They will hold a Wednesday night service and have activities and games. Mary would like to have some adult volunteers to help with small groups and/or just being there to help out. The college group has agreed to meet on Fridays during the coming year.

Pastor announced the beginning of catechism will be August 24 from 6:30-7:30. The last day of catechism will be April 18.

Bill Caldwell asked for a motion to end the meeting. Gary Henningsen made a motion and Dave Warnke seconded it and motion passed. Pastor ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, 11 Diane Habegger