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# First St. John Journal

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Volume 22, Issue 12

December, 2009

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**M**ark your calendar for Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. At both the 7:45 and 10:15 services we will have something new: we will celebrate Family Blessing Sunday. You will be able to come up as a family (if you are single, you are a family, if you want to come up and be blessed with your children's family or a friends family – you can come up more than once), kneel at the railing and receive a blessing from the Pastor as we begin the year 2010. This is a great way to start the new year. More about Family Blessing Sunday in the January newsletter.

Times are tough – in our church, our region, and our state. It's easy to worry and lose our focus about whose we are and why we are here. God has given us a Savior, His Son, Jesus Christ. I give you the words of 1 John 5: 11-13: "And this is the testimony, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

December reminds us that we are blessed by God's gift of Jesus.

— *Pastor Blohm*

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



Our annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at both services. We'll vote on the 2010 budget and new council members. The proposed budget is included in this newsletter (or in a separate attachment if you receive your newsletter by email). If you have questions about the budget, please call Jim Sommers at 419-691-7719 or 419-297-7420.

## **Project: Give a Blessing**

### **Attention Students and Congregation:**

We have an amazing opportunity to help three area families in need this Christmas season. 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. 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 Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.*** You will not have to wrap these gifts.

The youth will have a wrapping party on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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."



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### Births

10-26-09 *Elise June Beavers*, born to Sean and Sarah Beavers.

### Baptisms

10-18-09 *Jenna Poore*, born October 17, 2006 to Shawn and Megan Poore. Sponsors are Mike Gilsdors and Kaitlyn Jones.

11-8-09 *Elizabeth Toth*, born July 16, 2009 to Robert and Tina Toth. Sponsors are Peter and Jennifer Dewey.

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

10-20-09 James C. Ackerman

### Transfers To First St. John:

None.

### Transfers From First St. John:

Mike and Lynn Mominee to Martin Luther Lutheran in Toledo.

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



### December 24th

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

**NOTE:** There will be no Christmas Day services. There will be no children's or RENEW Sunday School on December 27th.

The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will reopen on Monday, December 28th. The office also will be closed on New Year's Day.

## ELDERS FOR DECEMBER

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
6th	Jeff Smith Linda Kusian	Bernie Erdmann Eric Johnson
13th	Mike Winslow LuAnn Schuffenecker	Mark Ackerman Janine Contat
20th	Dick Haar Joanne Henningsen	Darold Henninger Lynn Folk
	<u>7:00 pm</u>	<u>11:00 pm</u>
24th	Janine Contat Darold Henninger	Linda Kusian Lynn Folk
	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
27th	Bernie Erdmann Eric Johnson	Jeff Smith Linda Kusian

## 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

## **BACK PARKING LOT**

In memory of **Fran Ehksam** by Sue Moszkowicz.  
In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Margie Heninger.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

In memory of **Fran Ehksam** by Roberta Murray,  
Fay Woolcock, Donald & Doris Higley, her friends  
at Fenton Art Glass.

## **AIR CONDITIONING FUND**

In memory of **August Lofquist** by Mary Dippman.  
In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Duane & Mary K.  
Hubaker, Sandy Stahl & family, Esther Bell, Ralph  
& Ethel Mae Vogtsberger, Ruth Cummerow & Jack  
Nissen.

## **CURRENT FUND**

In memory of **Shirley Warnke** by Mary Dippman.

## **DEBT RETIREMENT**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Jean DeWitt, Russ  
& Chris Hunsaker, Marlene Fouty.

## **IMPROVEMENT FUND**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Gary & Penny  
DeWitt.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Gene Hagedorn,  
Marilyn Cashen.

## **CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Harry Myrice &  
Mary Ellen Miller, Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Edith  
Schuffenecker, M/M Wm. Fischhabler, Gene &  
Ruth Price.

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of **Mildred Thomas** by Gary & Joanne  
Henningens.  
In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by M/M Robert  
Dotson, Randy & Peggy Koch, Paul & Vivian  
Kuhlman, Marvin & Carol Keller, Norman & Phyllis  
Schuffenecker, Lou & Marilyn Kozma, the choir,  
Ada Kreger, Marty & Mary Lou Andrews, Eric &  
Cindy Johnson, James & Gayleen Smith, Mark &  
Debra Ackerman Family, Steve & Robin Blausey,  
Elaine Gladieux, Marvin & Sharon Blausey,

Harold & Helen Hill, Robert, Alva, Bob Jr. Hirzel,  
Deborah Johlin Bach, Glenn & Margaret Koester,  
Doris & Emil Kohntopp, Todd Kapp & Melissa  
Wac, Jim & Betty Lou Miller, Chuck & Jane Neal,  
Bill & Donna Nelson and family, Jerry & Ginny  
Nissen, Bill & Marian Phillips, Bill & Esther Rapp,  
M/M Dan Rapp and Matt, Rick & Diane  
Lindenberger, Dave & Cortney Rapp & family,  
Gene & Janet Schacht, Laurence & Julie St. John,  
Vic & Eileen Schuerman, Hank & Joanne  
Schumaker, Norman Schumaker, Esther Seibert,  
Cliff & Madonna Bury, Fred & Linda Bursich  
Family, Kevin & Kathy Fox, Wayne & Pat Fox,  
Margene Spring, Barb & Jon Ward, Earl Warnke,  
Deb Lofquist, Jim & De Wither, Janet Zunk, Anna  
Belle Avers, Lyla Avers, Chuck Bell Family.

## **ELEVATOR FUND**

In memory of **Mildred Thomas** by Bonnie Varga.

## **CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Ruth Cummerow  
& Jack Nissen, Martha Meyers, Lee & Karyl  
Antoine, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Ron & Joanne  
Koch, Pastor & Ilean Labuhn.

## **HOMEBOUND OUTREACH**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Donald & Doris  
Higley.

## **BETTY HYRE'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Olga Zimmerman.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

In memory of **Jim Ackerman** by Gloria Ross.

## **ATTENTION CATECHISM STUDENTS & PARENTS**



We'll have regular classes on December  
7th & 14th. On December 21st, we'll  
have our pizza party. Don't miss it! There will be  
no catechism on December 28th because of the  
holidays. We'll resume classes on January 4th.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**DECEMBER 23**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (INCLUDING RENEW YOUTH MINISTRY)

Join us on Sunday, December 13th at the 10:15 service for the Sunday School Christmas program. This year, our RENEW Youth Ministry will perform a play called "Once Upon a Bethlehem Night." The JAM students (younger students) will sing songs throughout the play.

After the program and church service has concluded, please join us in the gym for a pot luck luncheon.

Rehearsal for the play will be Saturday, December 12th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the church. Join us for pizza afterward. Please make sure your student arrives in the youth room in the church basement at 9:45 for the program.

If you have any other questions, please call either Karen Holmes 419-691-3225, Melissa Lang 419-837-1005, Julie Gallaher 419-693-5081, or Mary Darling 740-358-6060.



### JANUARY NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Your January newsletter will arrive the week of January 3 because of the holiday schedule.

### MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our next meeting is Sat., Dec. 5th at 8:00 am at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. Call Bob Haar at 419-360-7510 to let him know if you need a ride or more information. We average 15 to 18 men every month, but there is plenty of room for more. So, join us!



### ALTAR GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Altar Guild will meet on Monday, December 7th at 7:00 pm in the lounge for their year-end meeting and Christmas dinner.

## 2009 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 6, 2009.**

No. of plants @ \$8.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## HATS, GLOVES, MITTENS, SOCKS COLLECTION UPDATE



Thank you to all who donated socks, hats, gloves, and mittens for the needy children at Toledo Day Nursery and Riverside and Garfield Elementary schools. We collected approximately 275 hats, 105 pairs of mittens, 35 pairs of gloves, 30 scarves, and several pairs of socks. Many of these beautiful hats and mittens were hand-made by our devoted church members and friends. These organizations were so appreciative to receive our donations to keep their children warm this winter.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Poinsettias for our homebound members will be in the lounge beginning December 13th after the evening Christmas party. 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 is Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 pm in the gym. Dinner will be provided. Our speaker, Rev. Paul Lintern, is a storyteller, songwriter, pastor, and humorist. Come and enjoy some Christmas carols you've heard, but never heard before! Hear the Christmas story in the words of Martin Luther and laugh while remembering the miracle of Christmas. 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 please take one and visit with them for a few minutes during the week.

If you will attend, fill out the slip below and mail, fax, or take it to the church office by Wed., Dec. 9. Or you may place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

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*Yes, I/we will attend the Adult Christmas Party on  
Sunday, December 13th at 6:00 pm*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MILITARY SERVICE NOTES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, & friends of First St. John who serve in the military. You can send cards or packages, 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

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

## DARTBALL DIARY

### October 5, 2009—St. Mark's at 1st St. John #1:

We started the season by winning all three games, which got us off to a good start.

### October 19, 2009—1st St. John #1 at Messiah:

Tonight we lost 2 of 3 games, making our record 4-2. We won the first game 9-8 on a home run by Ted in the 9th inning after being behind most of the game.

We lost the second game 4-2 as neither team hit all that great. We all gave it our best anyway.

We lost the third game 7-4 as our hitting was a little off again.

### November 2, 2009—1st St. Mark at 1st St. John

#1: Tonight we lost 2 of 3 games again, making our record 5-4. As usual, our hitting was our downfall in our last two games.

### November 16, 2009— Good Shepherd at St. John

#1: In the 1st inning, Raj, Tom, and Ted doubled for a 2-0 lead. In the 2nd, they homered to make it 2-1. In the 3rd, they doubled twice to tie it 2-2. In the 4th, Darold doubled and Tom G. doubled for a 3-2 lead. In the 6th, they doubled three times and were safe on an error to give them a 5-3 lead. In our half of the 6th, Ted, Darold, and Terry doubled to tie it 5-5. In the 10th, they doubled and tripled to win it 6-5.

We won the second game. In the 5th inning, Ted homered for a 1-0 lead. In the 6th, Bernie homered for a 2-0 lead. In the 7th, they homered to make it 2-1, which turned out to be the final score.

In the 3rd inning of the third game, Terry and Frank homered for a 2-0 lead. In the 4th, they tripled and doubled three times for a 3-2 lead. In the 6th, they homered to make it 4-2. In our half of the 6th, Eric singled and Darold tripled to make it 4-3. In the 7th they homered to make it 5-3. In the 9th, Ted homered to close out the scoring. They won it 5-4. Our record is now 6-6.

Our #2 team won 2 games, and their record is now 7-5.

Our next game is November 30th —St. John #1 vs. St. John #2.

## CHICKEN & HAM DINNER UPDATE

A huge thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve our annual Chicken and Ham dinner. There is so much work in preparation so this event can take place. Though this is a WELCA event, the members and friends of our congregation are always willing to step up to help. This is a great place to meet old friends and make new ones. Also, thank you to all who donated crafts and baked goods for the Craft/Bake Sale table, and to those who donated desserts. Lutherans are the best when it comes to cooking and baking! Thank you for all for your participation.

We served 625 meals & made a profit of \$3, 919.88. Our profit was about \$200 less than last year. WELCA has not yet decided what the profits will be used for, but it will be put to use in the church.

### WE REMEMBER...

On All Saints Sunday, November 1st, we remembered the saints of First St. John who entered the Church Triumphant during the past year.

Emma A. Harmon	12/23/1906 - 11/01/2008
Richard E. Hosley	8/02/1944 - 11/13/2008
LaVerne K. Klawitter	3/06/1921- 12/06/2008
Suzanne A. Garey	6/08/1915- 1/02/2009
Walter H. Young, Jr.	5/03/1929- 2/09/2009
August "Augie" Lofquist	3/01/1924- 2/28/2009
Burton B. Tank	12/28/1927- 3/06/2009
Shirley M. Warnke	7/09/1927- 4/24/2009
Frances Ehram	7/16/1930- 9/03/2009
James C. Ackerman	1/17/1935-10/20/2009

*We also remember the following  
friends and family members:*

Jim Fouty, Doug Fouty, Greg Fouty, John "Jack"  
Franks, Jim Gallaher, Marvin Gladieux, Angela Heisler,  
Keith Kruse, James V. Marter, Andrea Schumaker,  
Austin Takacs



*“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 continue to be a joy and, as usual, have captured our hearts. Our theme this month will be Christmas, during which we will experience the awe and wonder of the true meaning of Christmas - that God came to earth as the little baby Jesus to be our Savior and King. This is a truly a season filled with joy and wonder! We anticipate the excitement will grow as the children learn the story of Jesus' birth and prepare for the Christmas programs they will share with their families and friends and hopefully some of you! They will learn Advent means “coming” and that we must use the next four weeks to get ready for the special birth. They will learn the best present of all is Jesus and He is from a God who loves us all!

Our Christmas programs will be in the church the evenings of December 9, 10, 11, 15, and 16, beginning at 7:00 pm each night. We hope to have a reception for the families in the gym after the programs. If you would be able to assist in this endeavor by preparing cookies, contributing ingredients for punch, helping with set up, serving, or greeting the families we are hosting, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call the church office, the Dayschool office, or speak with Laurie Madrazo, Bill Hamilton, Diane Habegger, Laura DeWitt, or Linda Kusian, and they would be glad to give you direction as to what is needed. Once again, thank you for your support.

We plan to carol this year at both the Lutheran Home and at the Alzheimer's Day Center. This is a gift the children love to give and it is a moving experience for all involved. This is part of our ministry that we pray continues to strengthen. Listening to older adults share memories of their childhood and watching the connections form between our 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 at the Dayschool is the Spanish custom of La Posadas where we walk through the halls knocking on doors and looking for room for Baby Jesus. Eventually we end up in the church where a Nativity scene has been 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.

Join us in prayer that 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 staff of First St. John Dayschool, want to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas season.

Merry Christmas from Us All

### 2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2010 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 2010 envelopes until January 3rd. Anyone who wants a contribution included on their 2009 statement must turn it in to the office by Thursday, December 31, 2009.

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# First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

(As of November 24, 2009)

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## 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:*

### **Family of Jim Ackerman**

**Larry Ansler  
Ronald Curtis  
Bayley Dycus  
Marlene Fouty  
Connie Koch  
Pastor Labuhn  
Veva Larson  
George "Skip" Mc Cullough  
Connor Miller  
Dale Ray  
Cheryl Reed  
Julia Rhoades  
Kristen Rollman  
Randy Smith  
Glenda Sumerel  
Dorothy Zeadker**

## 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:*

**Sandra Abramczyk  
Matt Blaylock  
Cpl. Thomas L. Bolander, Jr.  
Terry C.  
Jodi Avery Chiari  
Don Cousino  
Josh Cowan  
Family of Linda Curran  
Jackie Curtis  
Ronald Curtis  
John Deuble  
Family of Fran Ehrsam  
Teresa Ellis  
Kelsey Engles  
Jerry Gears  
Gary Kusian  
Kathleen Lytle  
Sam Nunnally  
Gene Price  
Janet Roberts**

## **Sharon (no last name given)**

**Dan South  
Nikki Spino  
Megan Spoerl  
Dominic Tucker  
Shirley Vick  
Douglas Viers  
Noelle Walker  
Candy Webster**

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

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## **WELCA BOARD MEETING NOTICE**



The WELCA Board meeting and Christmas dinner will be Monday, December 21st at 6:30 pm at BJ's Steakhouse in Oregon.

## **FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR**

At this time of year, requests for food are increasing. You can help! Please consider donating canned goods and non-perishable food items. For the month of December, we need meat and vegetable items. Some suggestions for meat are canned hams, canned chicken, tuna, Spam, chili, and ravioli. Place your donations in the bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or the lounge (near the double doors). Please, no glass containers. Thanks!



## **LIBRARY NEWS**

Two new books by Beverly Lewis have been added to the library. The first of three books is **THE SECRET**, the second is **THE MISSING**. The third book in the series is yet to be published. The books are about secrets of an Amish family. I'm sure these are books to enjoy.

Merry Christmas.

—Marilyn Cashen



## COUNCIL MINUTES

(continued from page 10)

Utilities had an overall decrease of about \$10,000 due to renegotiation of heating and gas costs. Maintenance will increase due to increase in repairs and salting on the new concrete. Administrative costs are up slightly due to office supplies. In Worship and Education costs are about the same. Taxes and insurance are up slightly with the gain of some property from the Home. Debt retirement is up because the cost of the parking lot. Gary Henningsen made a motion to accept the budget and Dave Warnke seconded it. Motion passed.

**Youth Report**-The youth is working on adopting migrant workers for Christmas. Drive by raking and bowling for this coming Saturday. Need adults to help supervise the activities that are coming up in the next few months.

**Pastor Report**-One transfer from First St. Mark, Florence Partin. Gary Henningsen motioned to accept the transfer and Bernie Erdmann seconded it. Motion passed. Pastor brought up the formation of an evangelism committee. This will be a way to help deal with the low attendance. He spoke about the mission of the church, that we are to be proclaimers of the salvation that God in Jesus Christ brings to all people. He outlined tasks for this future committee to accomplish. First, they need to reach out to inactive people to find out why they are not attending. The second task is to reach out to the Dayschool parents. People in the congregation need to be visible to these parents. Lastly, reach out to the community by advertising or simply inviting people to come. These are his ideas on what may be a good start to bringing people here to church. May bring in a professional to help us reach these goals.

**Old Business**-Bill brought up the list of council candidates for the upcoming year. We need at least one more person to fill an Elder position.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gary Henningsen and Bernie Erdman seconded it. The second meeting on Sunday November 22 motion to adjourn was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Gary Henningsen. The motions passed. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Habegger

## RENEW December Schedule

We are adopting three migrant farm worker families this Christmas season. A tree will be set up in the back of the sanctuary starting Nov. 29-Dec. 13. December 13th is the last day to bring in any presents or gift cards. A delivery date TBA!

### **Sunday, Dec. 6th, 9AM-10AM**

Christmas Program Rehearsal during Sunday School

### **7PM-8:15PM**

Youth Group, Door prizes! Bring friends!

### **Monday, Dec. 7th, 6PM Lights at the Zoo.**

Meet @ church. Bring friends, money \$7 for Zoo admission and if you want a snack etc. Dress warm!

### **Wednesday, Dec. 9th @ Northwood High School.**

Stand Your Ground Tour with Joel Penton (former OSU FB player) and Ryan Holliday in concert. Check out his music on Myspace. FREE. Meet at church at 6:00PM.

### **Saturday, Dec. 12, 11AM-1PM**

Christmas Program DRESS REHEARSAL  
Lunch provided at Church.

**Sunday, Dec. 13** Christmas Program— please arrive at 9:30AM. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

### **Sunday, Dec. 20**

Sunday School 9AM

### **6PM-8:30PM CHRISTMAS PARTY &**

**WRAPPING GIFTS** for families. Bring a \$5 for a White Elephant gift! We will also sign-up for food and drinks!

### **No Sunday School or Youth Group on December 27th.**

*"I do not understand the mystery of grace-only that it meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us."* Anne Lamott

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



## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—NOVEMBER 17, 2009



The meeting was called to order by President Bill Caldwell. The devotion was the Lord's Prayer. Roll call was taken by the secretary. The attendance was low and so there was no quorum to vote on any item. A special meeting will be called for Sunday November 22 after the late service so the budget for the 2010 can be discussed and voted on.

Minutes of the last meeting were read. LuAnn Schuffenecker made a motion to accept the minutes and Karen Holmes seconded it. The motion passed.

A special report was given by Bill Caldwell. He spoke about church attendance and did some comparing between 2008 and 2009. We do see a drop in attendance during October and into November. Our church has had a noticeable decline in attendance since 2006. Other churches have been having similar problems with attendance. In the upcoming months there will be more discussion on the issue of attendance. Bill is looking for people to come up with some concrete ideas on how to increase attendance.

**Treasurer's Report**-Lisa Anderson reported we are short \$4,300. We need about \$60,000-\$70,000 before the end of year to meet the budget. Year-to-date income is \$232,000. Hopefully this shortfall will be made up by year's end.

**Board of Education**-The board of education gave their report. This past Sunday there were 15 students in Sunday School. There are very small groups for Sunday School, and they are considering making one big group until growth happens.

Christmas program announcements are going out for students to sign up to be in it. On Dec. 6th there will be practice and also on Dec. 12th in the morning. The program is December 13<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday service at 10:15. After the program the Sunday School will have a luncheon up in the gym.

**Dayschool**-Barb Shellhammer gave the Dayschool report. The feast to celebrate Thanksgiving is in full swing. There were about 270 people that came to help the students celebrate The Feast on Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. The Feast will continue the rest of this week. The Dayschool will have evening Christmas programs on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>

beginning at 7:00 pm with parents most likely arriving early to be sure of a good seat. The church is helping in this endeavor by providing people to work in the Narthex, on the sound board, or anywhere guests will need help to be able to enjoy the program.

**Elder Report**-The Elder report was given by Bernie Erdman. There are 4 elders coming on and 5 going out. They still need one more person to fill their roster. The elders will help at the Christmas programs for the Dayschool. Some of the women of the church will be there as well.

**Property Management**-Gary gave the property management report. The concrete is finished. The grass has also been reseeded. Concrete will be sealed after the curing time. For the upcoming winter, salt cannot be used on the concrete. The church will have to use what is called safety salt. The cost of using this will increase the cost of our snowplowing bill. It will be about \$6,000 more to use this product. This salt is put on by hand and labor is part of the cost. It has been figured into the new budget for 2010. This salt will keep the concrete from pitting.

Property management would like to re-do the parking area across the street sometime by next fall. It needs to be re-sealed.

The drainage issue on the west side of the church has been taken care of as well. All the downspouts are connected to drain out. This was \$7,300 more to take care of this project. Joanne Henningsen made a motion to accept spending this money and Linda Kusian seconded it. The motion passed.

The council voted on getting another new boiler since all of the fixtures are set up to accept one. The new boiler will be \$25,900. The money is already in the boiler fund. Keith Mullen made a motion to get the boiler and Mike Winslow seconded. The motion passed.

**Finance Report**-New budget was shown for 2010. Salaries will stay the same for all staff people. All staff people were notified of the no change in salary. Benefits will stay the same except for pension and medical insurance that will increase slightly.