
♥ First St. John Journal ♥

Volume 23, Issue 2

February 2010

We will begin our Lenten pilgrimage this year in the middle of February—Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday. We'll have a noon service in the chapel and a 7:00 pm service in the church.

This year, we will do a series of special services on the Old Testament prophet Jonah. When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, Jesus said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah." (Matthew 12:39). After three days in the "belly" of the earth, Jesus rose with the promise of new life for His followers. We will follow the meaning of "the sign of Jonah" as we follow Jonah on his journey – and follow Jesus on His way to the cross. We'll find that we will be able to identify with Jonah more than we first realized. We'll also find God's willingness to love and redeem His creation is— in a word— remarkable!

—Pastor Blohm

NOONTIME LENTEN SERVICES

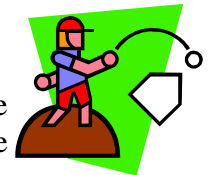
We'll have noontime prayer services on Wednesdays during Lent in the chapel. These services begin Wednesday, February 17th (Ash Wednesday) and run through April 1st. Please join us as your schedule permits.



EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

We'll start taking orders for Easter flowers (tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and lilies) from February 7th through March 14th. Plants are \$8.00 each. Look for order forms in your February Sunday bulletins and March newsletter. Or, you may call Karyl Antoine at 419-350-7040 with your order.

2010 HOMEPLATE



Believe it or not, tickets are available for the 2010 Homeplate event with the Detroit Tigers.

The annual event will be Saturday, May 1st at Comerica Park as the Tigers take on the Los Angeles Angels. The program prior to the game begins at 9:30 am. Members of the Detroit Tigers, coaches, and broadcasters speak about their faith in Jesus Christ. After the program, an on-the-field baseball clinic will run from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. Everyone gets a meal coupon for the concession areas, too. Then stay for the game, which begins at 1:05 pm.

Tickets are \$26 per person. Call the church office as soon as you can to reserve your tickets, or email us at firststjohn@sbcglobal.net We only have 25 tickets, so call soon!

"CHERISH OUR CHILDREN" CALENDARS AVAILABLE

The 2010 "Cherish Our Children" calendars from the NW Ohio Synod are available in the lounge. First St. John's Kaylee Beavers, age 7, drew a picture that was selected for the month of July. We have about 20 calendars, so pick up yours today!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our collection to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Thanks also to everyone who has donated money. The relief efforts will be extensive, so you can continue to donate monetarily as you are able. Thanks especially to the residents and staff of the Lutheran Home, Assisted Living, Luther Grove, Luther Hills, Luther Ridge, and Dayschool parents who donated to our relief efforts.

MEMORIALS

(as of Jan. 6)

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of Lois Carter by Bonnie Varga.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Jim Ackerman by Jerry & Elinor Ehram.

In memory of Etta Rideout by Georgia Huebner.

In memory of Betty Lauman by Dorothy Laney, M/M Walter Meier, The Carr Family, Lillian Murphy, Cheryl Pfund, Genevieve & Wilson Roecker, Chet & Ethel Norden.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Fran Ehram by Marvin & Kay Meyer.

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Keith Erdmann by Linda & Bernie Erdmann.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUND

In memory of Elenore Taylor by Jean DeWitt, Raymond & Naomi Zimmerman, Carlene Trost, Carl & Janet Morrison, Donna Koester.

In honor of Elaine Ackerman and Eileen Young on their 80th birthday by John & Mary Ann Hotz, Donna Koester, Kris Abel, Joyce Yard, Jean DeWitt, Ruth Ziethlow, Jerry & Ginny Nissen.

QUILTERS

In honor of Elaine Ackerman and Eileen Young on their 80th birthday by Gary & Penny DeWitt, Chuck & Jane Neal, Betty TenEyck.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Jill Haeft
287 Blue Harbor Ct.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(Cameron, Ashlyn)



Theresa Meyer
7100 S. Wilkinson Way Apt. 340
Perrysburg, OH 43551

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

We've recently learned the program can also use toiletries and paper products. For the month of February, we will concentrate on paper towels, Kleenex, and bathroom tissue. Of course, you can continue donating canned goods and non-perishable food items. Place your donations in the bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or the lounge (near the double doors). Thanks!



LIBRARY NEWS

HAVE A LITTLE FAITH by Mitch Albom was given to the library by Betty Hyre. This is the story of two men and two faiths and about losing faith and finding it again.

The message is: "Love one another, talk to one another, and don't let trivialities dissolve friendship."

— Marilyn Cashen

DARTBALL TOURNAMENT

St. John Team #1 and #2 have their tournament here at First St. John on February 1st at 7:00 pm in the gym. Set-up is 2:00 pm on January 31st.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or e-mail us: firststjohn@sbcglobal.net

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

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!

Cpl Thomas L. Bolander, Jr.
(we do not have an address for him, but please pray as he is doing dangerous duty)

SPC Doherty, Steven D.
He is now home from Iraq and has returned to his civilian job. Thanks for your thoughts and prayers.

SSGT Kevin Fouty
(we do not have a current address)

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
(we do not have a current address)

Matthew Phillips
1 ERHG / Red Horse
APO AE 09355

Captain Lindsey Rowland
(we do not have a current address)

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*)

MEMBER UPDATES



Births

1-6-10 *Connor James Newman*, born to Christopher and Kristina (Roberts) Newman.

1-7-10 *Kenna Lee King*, born to Keith and Shanna (Henningsen) King.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

None.

Transfers to/from St. John:

None.

ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY



	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
7th	Joanne Henningsen Bill Nelson	Dick Haar Lynn Folk
14th	Bernie Erdmann Linda Erdmann	Eric Johnson Linda Kusian

Ash Wednesday—February 17
Bernie & Linda Erdmann

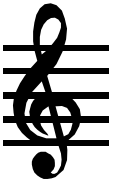
21st	Mike Winslow Gene Schacht	Darold Henninger Jim Swanson
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Lenten Service—February 24
Eric Johnson
Linda Kusian

28th	Dick Haar Joanne Henningsen	Lynn Folk Bill Nelson
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First St. John Lutheran Church
Prayer Chain (As of January 26, 2010)

STAFF / CHOIR NEWS



From February 8th through April 12th, John Rowley will be taking a leave of absence. Joel Hamilton will be substituting for John during his leave.

Crisis Prayer Chain List

This list is for those who need our prayers in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after the 1st month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is contacted :

Family of Sandra Abramczyk
Donald Curtis
Bill Fouke
John (no last name given)
Ada Kreger
Theresa Meyer
Jodi Perlinski
Christopher Wilson

Chronic Prayer List

This list is for those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off the list after three months unless one of the prayer chain contacts has been contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

Family of Jim Ackerman
Larry Ansler
Eileen Aysh
Jackie Curtis
John Deuble
Family of Casey Erdmann
Joe Frobese
Jerry Gears
Don Higley
Veva Larson
Kathleen Lytle
George "Skip" McCullough
Connor Miller
Laura Nickel
Dale Ray
Julia Rhoades
Janet Roberts
Kristen Rollman
Randy Smith
Douglas Viers
Candy Webster
Dorothy Zeadker

Prayer Chain Contacts

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410 (hpyhmker@aol.com)
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030
Ada Kreger 419-693-1549
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

A BIG THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who participated in the Max & Erma's Funraiser for the youth. We accumulated over \$600 in bills, and 20% of that, or \$130, will benefit the remodeling of the youth room.

**WOMEN'S HEALTH
AND WELLNESS DAY**



As a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, we will host a Women's Health & Wellness Day here at First St. John on Saturday, March 20th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the gym. This event is open to anyone, so bring your friends. There will be several booths set up for wellness testing, and other booths of interest to ladies, such as makeup, accessories, etc. More complete information will be appearing in future bulletins and the March newsletter.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes for 2010 have been stored away. If you haven't picked yours up yet, please call Toni in the church office to arrange pick up. If you don't have offering envelopes but would like some, please call Toni in the church office to arrange it. Thanks.

**DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR
FIRST ST. JOHN MEMBERS**

Beginning February 1st, First St. John members and those who have children currently enrolled are invited to enroll their children for the 2010/2011 school year. All children who will be age 3 by September 30, 2010 are eligible to attend. If you're interested and/or would like more information, please call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.

DARTBALL DIARY

December 21, 2009—First St. John #1 at Trinity: Tonight was a rough night for us as we lost all three games. We only scored two runs all night. Anyway, things are bound to get better.

In the first game, we got off to a 1-0 lead on a home run by Raj in the 3rd inning. Then they went ahead 2-1 on 3 singles and a double in their half of the 3rd inning. That's the way it ended.

In the second game, they went ahead 4-0 on 3 singles and 3 doubles. Raj homered for us to make it 4-1 in the 7th. In their half of the 7th, they were safe on an error and had 2 doubles to make the final score 6-1.

The third game was scoreless until the bottom of the 8th when they scored 3 runs on an error, a single, and a homer to win it 3-0. Our record is now 10-11.

Standings as of December 21, 2009

	W	L	GBL
1st St. Mark	12	6	*
1st St. John #1	10	8	2
1st St. John #2	10	8	2
Good Shepherd	9	9	3
Messiah	9	9	3
Trinity	9	9	3
St. Mark	7	11	5
St. Lucas	6	12	6

January 4, 2010 — First St. John #1 at St. Mark: Happy New Year. We start off the second half at St. Mark. In the first game, we got off to a 1-0 lead in the 3rd inning on doubles by Raj and Tom E., and that was all the scoring there was. We won it 1-0.

In the 2nd inning of the second game, Tom G. homered for a 1-0 lead. Then they tied it 1-1 on 2 doubles. In the 4th, they went ahead 2-1 on 2 doubles, and that's the way the game ended.

In the 3rd game we got off to a 4-0 lead in the 1st on doubles by Raj, Darold, and Tom E., and a homer by Ted. In their half of the 1st, they made it 4-1 on 2 doubles. In the 3rd, we made it 5-1 on doubles by Tom E. and Ted. In their half of the 3rd they made it 5-2 on a home run. In our half of the 5th we made it

7-2 on doubles by Tom E., Ted, and Tom G. In the 6th we made it 9-2 on a single by Joe and a homer by Raj. In the 9th, we got the final four runs on a single by Frank, doubles by Raj and Darold, and a 2-run homer by Tom G. to make it 13-2. Our record is now 12-12.

January 18, 2010 — Messiah at First St. John #1: In the 1st inning, Darold homered for a 1-0 lead. In the 2nd inning, they doubled 4 times for a 2-1 lead. In the 3rd inning they doubled twice for a 3-1 lead. In our half of the 3rd, Frank homered to make it 3-2. In the 4th, they doubled and hit 2 singles to make it 4-2. In our half of the 4th, Terry homered to make it 4-3, and Chet tied it 4-4 with a homer. In the 10th, they won it 5-4 with 2 doubles.

In the second game, we got off to a 1-0 lead on a double and 2 singles in the 1st inning. In the 2nd inning, Chet, Bernie, and Erich homered for a 4-0 lead. In the 5th inning, they homered to make it 4-1. In the 7th they homered to make it 4-2. They homered again in the 9th to make it 4-3, which was the final score and a win for us.

In the 1st inning of the third game, they got off to a 1-0 lead on 2 doubles. In our half of the 1st we made it 2-1 on a single by Frank and doubles by Ted and Tom G. In the 2nd Chet and Bernie homered for a 4-1 lead. In the 4th Ted was safe on an error, Tom G. doubled, and Terry and Bernie homered for an 8-1 lead. In the 6th, they doubled and homered to make it 8-3. In our half of the 6th Bernie and Erich doubled to make it 9-3. In the 7th they hit 2 doubles and a homer to make it 9-6. Then in the 8th, they doubled, tripled, and singled twice to tie it 9-9. In our half of the 8th Chet homered to make it 10-9. In the 9th, they won it 11-10 on a double and a home run.

Our record is now 13-14. Don't forget February 1st is our tournament at First St. John at 7:00 pm sharp.



RENEW YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

NO YOUTH GROUP DURING FEBRUARY!
THE BIG MOVE OCCURS THIS MONTH,
AND WE'LL HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE
ONCE THE NEW STUDENT MINISTRY
AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ROOMS
ARE DONE!

Feb. 1 Volunteer/Parents meeting
in lounge 6:30-7:30PM. We'll finalize
details for Spaghetti dinner, etc.

Feb. 6 Spaghetti Dinner. Students
signed up for specific times to
volunteer. Remember when you signed
up and be prepared to serve. Dessert
Auction will take place toward the end
of the Spaghetti Dinner. Bring extra
cash to donate to the RENEW STUDENT
MINISTRY Mission Trip Toledo this
summer. There will be a special guest
auctioning off the delicious desserts our
WELCA Ladies make.

Feb. 7 FREEWAY Breakfast— Meet
at FREEWAY AT 9AM!

Souper Bowl of Caring starts
and will continue for 3 weeks. Don't
forget to bring canned soup as well;
this will be donated to Lutheran Social
Services.

Feb. 14, 9AM Sunday School - Unit
On Dating Relationships

Feb. 21, 9AM Sunday School - Unit
On Dating Relationships

Feb. 28, 9AM Sunday School - Unit
On Dating Relationships

UPCOMING EVENT: Awake Tonight
Tour—Toby Mac & Skillet perform
Sunday, Mar 21 @ 7PM. **www.**
myspace.com/awakeningevents
Tickets cost \$18. If we get 15 or more
to go, we get a group discount.
PLEASE RSVP by Feb. 5 so I can order
tickets and get best possible seats.

SPAGHETTI DINNER



RENEW Student Ministry will hold an
All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner on
Sat., Feb. 6th at 6:30 pm in the gym. Come and enjoy
a nice candlelit dinner as a date with your spouse or
significant other, or make it a girls' night! Slow
down and be served by First St. John youth. The
youth also will entertain you during our talent
portion of the night. There will be a dessert auction
at the conclusion of the dinner. More details coming!

Tickets are \$7 for individuals, \$12 per couple, \$3 for
3-12 years, and under 3 years old is free. Tickets will
go on sale on January 10th. All proceeds will go to
the RENEW Student Ministry, specifically helping
with this summer's mini mission trips in Toledo and
surrounding areas. If you have any questions, contact
Mary by phone at 740-358-6060 or email her at
mdarling05@yahoo.com

BOARD OF MINISTRIES

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 10th at
6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE FUND DONATIONS NEEDED

The Member Assistance Fund is nearly broke. The
church uses this fund to help our members in times
of need. There are two ways to help us help others.
First, use your Gordon Food Service Fun Funds card
every time you shop at Gordon's. Using this card
accumulates up to a 10% rebate for our church,
which is paid to First St. John every 3 months. You
can sign up at Gordon's or go to the lounge to pick
up an application for the program. The second way
you can help is simply to send a donation to the
church with "Member Assistance Fund" written on
the memo line. Thank you for any help you can give.

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS



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



Dear Friends,

Our school days are moving by so quickly! It's always a little bittersweet because we have grown to love the children so...but also very exciting as we see the growth they have accomplished. I know many of you have never been in the building when school is in session. I wanted to tell you just a couple of the things I have the privilege of witnessing everyday. This week during chapel, which takes place every morning at 9:15 and a couple afternoons at 12:30, after hearing about giving to others and discussing the enormous need in Haiti, a child brought in 6 of his favorite bandages for Miss Heather to give to the people in need. The children have also been singing a song about God's plan for their life and another about the golden rule, which are just a couple of the ones they are thinking of sharing with you on Sunday, April 25. This is an incredible age...children want to be like Jesus! And just being around them makes me want to be more like Him also. It is amazing how much joy they bring to this building. It is amazing how much they have grown in their spirits, in their bodies, and in their academics since August. I am always so proud of them. And of their gifted teachers. And also proud of this school and the way it fulfills the mission of the church - **Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community.** Please continue to lift the Dayschool up in prayer.

Now...what you can do for us! Do you know someone who is looking for a great Christian preschool or kindergarten for their child? This month we will begin registration for next year and summer daycare. Enrollment for members of First St. John and those families currently enrolled begins Monday, February 1. Please consider sharing this information with families who are in need of a loving, Christian, quality school for their children. Help us spread the good news to the community! Word of mouth has always been our best advertisement. Please contact the Dayschool office at 419-691-6480 for more information. Registration is open to the general public beginning Monday, March 1. An open house will be held Tuesday, March 2 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm for those wanting to learn more about our school.

Our annual fundraiser with Club Choice products will get underway the end of February. It would be wonderful to see members of the congregation

participate in this project! See one of the Dayschool Board members: Diane Habegger, Laurie Madrazo, Laura Dewitt, or Bill Hamilton, and they will make sure you get an order form. Pizza, desserts, candy, and more are for sale. Look for posters created by our Dayschool children announcing the exact kick-off of this event! The Club Choice fundraiser has been well received in the past, and we are hoping for an even better response this year as we continue to work toward academic improvements.

February is a month for celebrating love. We want to share with you the children's thoughts on God's love. We hope their ideas bring a smile to your face.

*We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19*

What does it mean to be loved by God?

I love Him. It makes me feel good. — *Tre*

It means we love Him back. He loves others.
We pray to Him too! — *Audrey*

It helps me to do good things. — *Timmy*

He made us. He died on the cross. — *Reid*

That He likes us and we should be good to His word, like don't hit or punch. — *Lilly Ann*

It means that God forgives you and loves you forever. — *Justice*

It means you love Him and He loves you.
— *Derek*

God you are in my heart. — *Gabe*

It means that He loves all of us because He made us. — *Nicholas*

That He really means it. — *Zander*

He loves us like we love our parents. — *Eli*

God loves us and we love Him. He is happy when we pray to Him.

— *Paige*



FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—JANUARY 17, 2010

The meeting was at President Bill Caldwell's house. Dinner was served and appreciated by all who attended. Bill had all the previous and newly elected council members introduce themselves. There was not a quorum, so no votes were taken.

An informal meeting followed with finances being brought up to date. The month of December brought in over \$53,000 with only \$24,000 spent. The church ended up the year with a little over \$300,000. Generous giving put the finances into the black for the beginning of 2010.

Current fund, designated, youth, and reserve funds were audited. Everything checked out.

Duane Hubaker will be auditing the WELCA books and Altar Guild books.

Chris Hunsaker would like to do an asset account of items around the church. That would include taking pictures of items and keeping them in a safe place.

There is a little over \$2,000 in the Christmas tree fund.

Bill discussed some of the projects that are going on around the church. He discussed all of the items in the church that are not used or are old and can't be used anymore. Bill produced a list of items that needed to be done and wants people to volunteer to take care of some of them. Some things could be sold or used by other agencies. It was brought up to schedule a Saturday to try to accomplish moving and cleaning up items that can be handled by youth and adults.

The second item that Bill brought up was to brainstorm ideas on how to increase attendance in church, Sunday school, and in the youth group. Bill wants ideas to be able to promote and support the Day School. The church's 150 year celebration is coming, and he needs a committee to help organize events for that. Lastly, Bill needs to have help with making the church more technologically friendly. Bill gave the council time to discuss his agenda and come up with some ideas to accomplish these goals. Ideas were discussed and council will be working to put these ideas into action

The meeting ended with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Habegger

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Each year the NFL has its Superbowl – the big showdown of the best teams. We at First St. John and many NW Ohio congregations also have our Souper Bowl – a drive to collect funds to help the Feed Your Neighbor program. Feed Your Neighbor distributes non-perishable food items to people in need. We collect these items throughout the year (keep 'em coming!). But they also need monetary funds to keep up their food supply. With the economy the way it is today, even more people are using this program. To help, on February 7th through the 21st, we'll have a soup kettle in the Narthex to collect money to help Feed Your Neighbor. If everyone only throws in \$1 (but you can add more if you'd like!), we'll go a long way toward helping this cause.

To provide additional help, please also bring one can of soup on these days that will go to Lutheran Social Services. Remember, that's February 7th through the 21st. Thanks.