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# ❄️ First St. John Journal ❄️

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Volume 24, Issue 1

January, 2011

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**A**s we begin a new year, what are your thoughts about what lies ahead for you and your loved ones as 2011 unfolds? Are you positive, enthused, and confident, or are you chained to a worry or a concern that slows down your faith walk? 2011 is a big year for our church as we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with events all year long. But a church is not a building – a church is the people who gather to pray, talk, learn, share and grow. As I have told others outside this church, “there’s a lot of good people at First St. John.”

One of them is our office administrator, Toni Wilbarger. The Lord has blessed Toni with the gift of writing, and Toni has used that gift to proclaim God’s love and concern for all people. In the January/February issue of the Christian devotional The Upper Room, Toni contributed a devotion (for February 11) reminding each of us that God’s thoughts and ways are different than ours. Here’s a “sneak preview.” Thanks, Toni!

— *Pastor Blohm*

## God’s “No”

*“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. Isaiah 55:8*

After six months of unemployment, my husband, David, had an interview for his “dream” job. He was almost assured of getting it. Almost. Then he received a rejection letter. David was as dejected as I’d ever seen him. How could this have happened? We had trusted God, and now all we could do was agonize over this rejection.

One month later, we read in the newspaper that the company had closed its offices. Had David gotten that job, he would have been back on the unemployment line within 30 days. What we thought was terrible God turned to good.

*(continued on page 8)*

## You Are Invited to Come to the Vineyard



John 15:5:

**“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”**

**When:** Every Sunday, beginning January 9, 2011 from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

**Where:** The kindergarten room next to the lounge on the second floor of the educational building.

**Who:** Any adult interested in being a part of a new Bible study

Plan on attending on January 9 to find out more about this exciting new Christian education experience.

Contact Toni in the church office if you have any questions.

## COUNCIL DINNER



A casual dinner and brief meeting will be at Bill and Cathy Caldwell’s home on Sunday, January 23rd at 6:00 pm for all current, incoming, and outgoing council members and their spouses. Bill and Cathy are at 659 Peregrine Dr., in Northwood, OH. Please RSVP to Bill and Cathy at 419-698-3285 or to the church office at 419-691-7222 by Friday, January 14th, or you can email them at [billcathyc@buckeye-express.com](mailto:billcathyc@buckeye-express.com)

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

11-29-10 *Willow Grace Schlegel*, born to Andrew and Nichole (Mullen) Schlegel.

12-7-10 *Reese Noel Hugueley*, born to Eric and Tamera (Morse) Hugueley.

**Baptisms** None.

**Marriages** None.

### Deaths

12-15-10 Marilyn Koester

12-16-10 Warren Danekind

**Transfers to First St. John:** Timothy Antoine from St. Mark Lutheran in Toledo; Christopher Oberhaus from St. Paul's Lutheran in Napoleon, Ohio; and Jeff & Ethel Hierholzer and their children Britney, Joshua, Kiara and Kayli from Prince of Peace Lutheran in Oregon, Ohio.

**Transfers from First St. John:** None.

## ELECTION RESULTS



Dear Congregational Members,

The church council appreciates your time and effort in attending and voting at the congregational meeting in December. The outcome of the meeting gave approval for the budget: 106 For, 1 Against. If anyone has additional questions or would like to further discuss the budget, please call Lisa Anderson at 419-693-1232.

Thank you to everyone who ran for council. Please welcome our new and incumbent council members:

**Property Management:** Larry Paul

**Elders:** Lynn Folk, Jeff Smith

*We are still 2 elders short for the 2011 year. If you can help, please call Bill Caldwell at 419-698-3285.*

**Finance Committee:** Gary DeWitt, Dennis Pavley

**Board of Education:** Julie Gallaher, Lori Pfeiffer

## BOARD OF MINISTRIES

Our first meeting of 2011 is on Tuesday, January 11th at 6:00 pm in the lounge.

## THANK YOU...

Thank you to Pastor Blohm for his visit and to all the members of First St. John for their prayers and cards during my stay at St. Vincent's and the recent weeks of recovery.

— Ilean Labuhn

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
*January 21st*

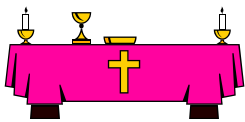
## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep information for office records current, please notify the office of any changes to your name, address, or phone: **Fax:** (419-691-7220) **Mail** this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or **Email:** office@firststjohn.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Our new officers and members for 2011 are listed below:

### Officers:

Emily Kruse	President
Sue Ann Rogers	Vice President
Raylene Draeger	Secretary
Jane Schuetz	Treasurer
Claudia Patchen	Supply Chairman
Karyl Antoine	Flower Chairman

Members: Wanda Rice, Susie Skorupa, Marilyn Miller, Brenda Fussell, June Might, Joyce Yard, Beth Hugueley (alternate)

Thank you to our outgoing members Lynn Folk and Laurie Witt. We appreciate the work you did serving your church.

## FLOWER REMINDER



Don't forget to remember and honor your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Each Sunday you have the opportunity to place flowers on the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the big bulletin board and sign up for the Sunday you want. Flower sheets for every Sunday in 2011 are in the book. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment.

### ***ELDERS FOR JANUARY***

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
2nd	Jeff Smith Jim Swanson	Mike Winslow Dick Haar
9th	Darold Henninger Bernie Erdmann	Lynn Folk Bill Nelson
16th	Bernie Erdmann Linda Erdmann	Eric Johnson Linda Kusian
23rd	Mike Winslow Dick Haar	Jeff Smith Jim Swanson
30th	Bill Nelson Darold Henninger	Linda Erdmann Lynn Folk

## 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!

*TSgt Kevin Fouty*  
2412 1st Ave. N.  
Great Falls, MT 59401

*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*  
78382 Dukewood Trail  
Yula, FL 32097

*2LT Michael R. Pavley*  
104th Transportation Co.  
Shindand AB  
APO AE 09382

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

*Captain Lindsey Rowland*  
237 Bartlett Dr.  
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

## ***DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS***

This scholarship helps members of First St. John who will attend college for the 2011/2012 school year. Money is supplied from proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members. This year, we've moved up the deadline to March 30<sup>th</sup> and we plan to award up to three scholarships. Applications are in the church office. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30<sup>th</sup> to be considered.

## MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Please remember to notify the church office when your address has changed. Newsletters sent to your old address get re-routed to the church, but the church pays a fee each time this happens. Help save us some money and notify us if you or someone in your family has moved. (If you or someone in your family no longer wishes to receive the newsletter, contact the office, and we'll take you or them off the distribution list.) Thanks.

Ryan & Heather Abbey  
1019 Miller St.  
Fremont, OH 43420  
(Tyler)

Brenda Alvarado  
323 Cedar Ridge Ct.  
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Lois Brecklen  
1419 Red Bud Dr.  
Northwood, OH 43619

Kimberly Grames  
1151 S. Stadium Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43616  
(Kieran)

Adam & Julie Ladd  
9214 River Rd. Apt. A  
Huron, OH 44839

Jeff & Jessika Wilson  
29069 George St.  
Millbury, OH 43447  
(MaKaela, MaKenzy, MaKenna)

## PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

If you read the Prayer Chain list (found on page 6) and see a name you know should be taken off the list, please contact the Prayer Chain Coordinator Carol Abbey at 419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com to let her know. Thank you.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! FATHER / SON BANQUET



As First St. John celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2011, there will be many special events planned, one of which is a Father/Son Banquet. The banquet will be held on Wednesday, February 16th at 6:00 pm.

Our speaker will be Ron Rightnowar, Director of Athletics/Admissions at Toledo Christian School. Ron is a former pitcher for many minor league teams (including our own Mud Hens) and also pitched in the majors for the Milwaukee Brewers.

Tickets will go on sale Sunday, January 9th.

### Ticket Prices

Adults	\$8.00
Children 4 to 12	\$6.00
Children 3 & Under	Free

Join us on February 16th for a great evening!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

The men's breakfast fellowship continues to grow (16-20 men in attendance), but we always have room for one or two more. In January we will meet on January 8th instead of the 1st. The time we meet is at 8:00 a.m., and we will be meeting at a new location--The American Table restaurant near the corner of Wheeling and Navarre. Please join us for fellowship and a timely devotion. Need a ride? Call Bob Haar at 419-360-7510.



## JOIN US FOR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Come join Pastor Blohm and a group of conscientious classmates when our Bible study resumes after the holidays on Tuesday, January 4th at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

## OR, DURING LUNCH

Pastor Blohm also leads a Bible study at noon on Thursdays in the lounge. Bring your lunch; coffee and water are provided. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 6th.



## QUILTING TIME!

The Quilting Group will meet each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge beginning Monday, January 3rd and running through Monday, March 28th. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of a quilt together (all you need to know is how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, they follow Oregon Schools for cancellations.

Most of the quilts made will be donated to Lutheran World Relief and local charities. If you would like to sew quilting blocks at home, please call Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822. Thank you.

## MEMORIALS

### CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Ron Sattler** by Jim Harrell.

In memory of **Mom and Dad and Grandmother and Grandfather Wiemeyer** by Carl and Janet Morrison.

In memory of **Larry Haar** by Ada Kreger.

In memory of our son **Keith Erdmann** by Bernie & Linda Erdmann.

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Etta & Roy Rideout** by Georgia Huebner.

## 2010 AND 2011 CHURCH COUNCIL, WELCA, & ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS

If you've finished your term, please turn in your church keys and access cards (for the educational building) to the church office as soon as possible. If you are new to your office and need an access card and/or keys, please contact Toni in the church office.

**Please Note:** All access cards should be returned—these cannot be handed to new officers because the numbers on the back are tied to a specific person. All newly elected officers should soon be able to get keys and/or access cards from their chairmen, OR contact Toni in the church office.

## 2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2011 offering envelopes are in the lounge through the month of January. They are listed in alphabetical order. Envelopes are prepared for confirmed members of First St. John and friends (upon request). If a husband and wife share offering envelopes, only the husband's name will appear on the envelope box.

If you cannot find your offering envelopes or if there is a correction in your address or name, please call the church at 419-691-7222 as soon as possible.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL / CATECHISM NEWS

Preschool through 6th grade will not have Sunday School on January 2nd because of the New Year holiday. (RENEW youth group WILL meet this day.) Classes will resume on Sunday, January 9th.

Also, catechism classes will resume on Monday, January 3rd. See you there!

## HOMEPLATE 2011 — CALL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW



It seems too early to talk about baseball, but tickets for the Homeplate event with the Detroit Tigers are already available. We've missed the event before because we were too late to get our order in, so this is an official "heads up" to anyone interested in attending the Homeplate Event.

Homeplate 2011 will be held on Saturday, May 14th. The program begins at 3:30 pm, and the game is at 7:05 pm, so it's a late one this year. Ticket price is \$27 per person, which includes the program, game ticket, food voucher and souvenir. We will probably order 20 tickets, so get your RSVP in to Toni in the church office as soon as possible if you'd like to attend.

## ***FIRST ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN***

**Crisis Prayer List:** *For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to the Chronic list after the first month unless someone is contacted about special circumstances:*

**Jordyn Beckhusen  
Allison Deckleman  
Susan Schumaker Gunter  
Julie Kutchenriter Nowicki  
Larry Sanders  
Ian Vargo  
Family of Seybert Williams III**

**Chronic Prayer List:** *For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Will be moved off the list after 3 months unless someone is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**Chelsea Bell  
Richard & Marjorie Counterman  
Donald & Jackie Curtis  
Kris Ensign  
Bernie Erdmann  
Family of Mary Farkas  
Family of Pat Fejes  
Jerry Gears  
Family of Clayton Groll  
Family of Larry Haar  
Sally Hartzell  
Cindy Knavel  
Joanne Koch  
Robin Kovesdi  
Paul Kuhlman  
Veva Larson  
Family of Rob & Rex Lytle  
George "Skip" Mc Cullough  
Sam Mousa  
Monica Moszkowicz  
Pat O'Connor  
Charlie Ohlson  
Julia Rhoades  
Janet Roberts  
Richard Rohloff  
Fred & Hilda Saelzler  
Jacquelyn Seger  
Gwen Tober  
Phyllis Wagner  
Bob & Kate Webb  
Candy Webster  
Terry Williams  
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.

### **Prayer Chain Contacts**

Coordinator, Carol Abbey  
419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410  
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030  
Ada Kreger 419-693-1549  
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

### **NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON**

You and your Family are invited to

***JOIN ME FOR LUNCH***

**Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2011  
12:30pm-2:30pm in the lounge**

First St. John Lutheran Church has served the community for 150 years. As pastor for over 20 years I have seen many families come through our doors. I feel blessed to have shared in baptisms, weddings, and called on to guide families through the difficult and challenging times they have faced. I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to consider becoming a member of First St. John Lutheran church and share in all we have to offer.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Robert Blohm

**RSVP by January 25<sup>th</sup> by contacting Toni  
at the church office 419-691-7222.**

**Separate activities will be available for  
your children during the luncheon.**

## *RENEW January News / Schedule*

**Jan. 2 9AM** Sunday school kickoff to 2011- Make sure to come; we will be planning and brainstorming some ideas for 2011 activities!

**Jan. 3 6:30PM** Catechism 7-8 grade

**Jan. 9 9AM** Sunday school

**Jan. 10 6:30PM** Catechism 7-8 Grade

**Jan. 16 9AM** Sunday school

**Jan. 17 6:30PM** Catechism 7-8 Grade

**Jan. 23 9AM** Sunday school

**Jan. 24 6:30PM** Catechism 7-8 Grade

**Jan. 29 12:30PM** New Member Luncheon. Babysitters needed! Let Mary know if you are interested in helping!

**Jan. 30 9AM** Sunday school

**Jan. 31 6:30PM** Catechism 7-8 Grade

\*Students- Send Mary your sports or other schedules of extracurricular activities!

Thank you to all who helped with Project Give a Blessing! We collected and wrapped over 70 gifts for two Toledo area families. They greatly appreciated our generosity and felt the love of Christ through us.

If anyone has ideas for service projects for our teens and catechism students please let Mary know about these opportunities in the Toledo area.

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook and our website <http://www.firststjohn.com/renew/>

### **New Year Devotion**

I recently saw this quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). I really began to think about that statement. *(continued on page 8)*

## **A Belated Christmas Letter**

(A Mouse tail tale from 1860)

*During First St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we will present articles about the history of our church. However, the story of First St. John will be presented as a tongue-in-cheek historical novel told from the point of view of a cemetery mouse (German word: Maus). The mouse is often used as a term of endearment in German culture. However, our Maus author must remain anonymous! (This month's information came from Waggoner or Killetr's histories of Lucas County, Salem Lutheran Church records, Lutheran Home Society [Pastor Labuhn], Wartburg Seminary, and German Lutheran Missions [Neundettelsau].)*

Speculators have acquired large tracts of land and plotted their own villages. Of the many villages, Port Lawrence and Vistula consolidated into the town of Toledo in 1835. The northern border dispute led to the "Toledo War."

A land-rich widow, Elizabeth Flagg, periodically sold land to support herself. She just sold ten acres of land to Johannes Doerfler, born in Deberndorf, Bavaria in Germany. Johannes emigrated in 1854 as the 97<sup>th</sup> "sendling" of a mission-minded Father Loehe in Neundettelsau, Germany. He became a mission pastor on the Wisconsin frontier for the newly formed Lutheran Iowa Synod.

Last year, 1859, he accepted a call from the theologically troubled Salem congregation in Toledo, Ohio. The theological differences were settled, and Salem became an Iowa Synod congregation.

Some German immigrant farmers on the east side of the Maumee River have befriended Johannes because of their hunger for the "Word." Serving them is a challenge as there are no roads. He has conducted services in barns, granaries, and the abandoned log Congregational church. The church was disbanded when all the male members enlisted in the Army of the North.

Johannes has been working with the widows and orphans in Toledo and has taken some of the most unfortunate into his own home, but he has had a difficult time. Remembering the community plan at Neundettelsau led Johannes to form an Orphan Home Society this past June. They began circulating a statement of purpose and a pledge of money or labor for the construction of their "small house of worship." Ground was broken this past Fall.

## PASTOR'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

Soon after, David got a job closer to home, one that he has been happy with for the last five years.

How many times do we assume that an apparent "no" to our prayers is evidence that God doesn't care about us? Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the apostle Paul wrote, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). What we think is good for us may not be good at all, and what appears to be awful at one time can open a door to something better. God knows us so completely that even an answer of "no" can be for our good.

*Prayer:* Dear God, teach us patience as we wait for you, trusting in your infinite wisdom. Amen.



## A BELATED CHRISTMAS LETTER

(continued from page 7)

The weather has been favorable and the harvest is good. There are many more tails at the table. (Or is that tales?) Hunting and gathering has been good, but I am hoping for a promotion this coming year. Maybe to Church Mouse.

### The Lutherans are here!

From the Cemetery Mouse

## ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE - - THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a member of Thrivent, you may have "choice dollars" available to you that you can direct Thrivent to donate to the organization you specify. (You may have gotten a phone call or a letter about this.)

We have forms available that you can fill out and send to Thrivent to donate your Thrivent choice dollars. These are located in the lounge. If you don't know your CIF (customer information file) number, you can call the 800 number on the back of the form.

## RENEW JANUARY NEWS

(continued from page 7)

The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

As a believer in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this and I won't do that and then dropping the idea or falling short. It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him. This way our focus will be on the things of heaven and not on all this earthly stuff.

Do you want a new ending this year? How do you want the ending of your life to be? If you're not a Christian, please know this could be the best New Year of your life.

Your life can be filled with hope and peace. To know what the ending will be is an extra bonus. Why should every year be the same as the one before with nothing really changing? After all, the New Year resolutions may or may not get accomplished.

If you are a Christian and you feel stagnate in your relationship with the Lord, then now is the time to rekindle the love affair with Him. He calls us to Himself and says, "Come away my beloved." Can you hear Him? He is tugging at your heart. The real ending in our lives will be when Jesus says, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." That statement will be for someone who took the time to get to know Him, love Him, and obediently follow Him.

May you come to know the love of Christ in this New Year in a New Way!

Blessings,  
Mary

## DATE TO TAKE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN



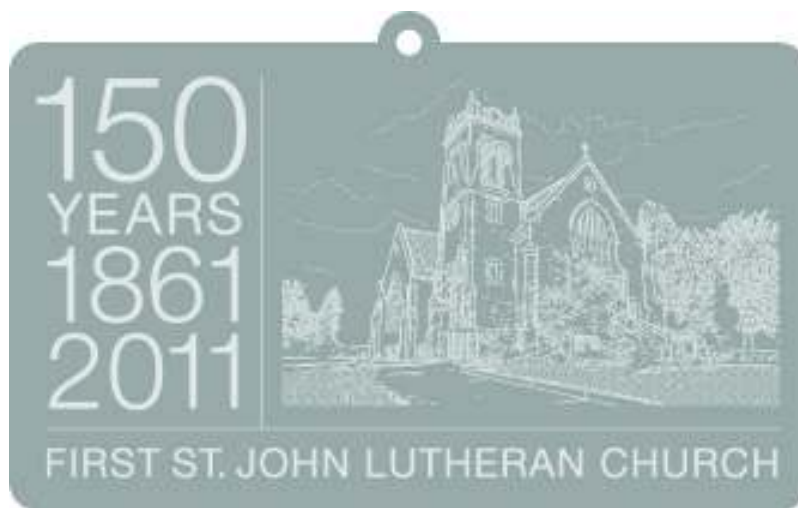
The Christmas decorations will be taken down and stored on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> after 4:00 pm. Please do not schedule any events or meetings in the church during this time. Thank you.



# FIRST ST. JOHN'S COLLECTOR'S ORNAMENT

*NOW ON SALE*

The new 24K gold-on-brass ornaments commemorating First St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary are available for purchase for \$15 each. Someone will be in the lounge after services, or you can see Toni in the church office during the week to purchase your ornament(s). Special thanks to Jack Bollinger who designed it.



W=3.34" x H=2.08"

## Thank You

1861 We, the Evangelical Lutheran Joannes Parish in Oregon Township, Lucas County, Ohio have formed a union to build a small House of God, in the area near the church on an acre of land which we have bought. Since our number is still small we have a hard time to bear the cost of building by ourselves.

Therefore, we request the love and well wishing of our close neighbors and beg that they might support our efforts with a small gift according to their good will. Even the smallest gift is thankfully welcome and God our Lord, in whose name we undertake this work and dedicate it to His Honor and to the building of His Kingdom, will not deny His blessing.

2011 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

On March 4, 1861 Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office as President of the United States, and in the year 1861 our congregation, First St. John Lutheran Church (now in Toledo) was formed.

The writer of Hebrews, Chapter 13, verse 8 keeps us grounded. Society has changed and the church has changed and continues to evolve, but our Lord never changes.

Congratulations and thanks to God for 150 years of Commitment, Sacrifice, and Generosity in the name of our Savior.

May God bless our future in the same way that God has blessed our yesterdays and still blesses us even today.

Rev. Robert W. Blohm, Jr.

The Official  
First St. John  
Lutheran Church  
Collector's Ornament  
2011



*That all may know! This is a limited edition  
24K gold-on-brass Holiday ornaments.*

Ornament No. \_\_\_\_\_

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

*E. A. Neiman*  
E.A. Neiman, Mint Director

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## FROM ONE OF OUR YOUNG ADULTS—

### A WAY TO HELP MERCY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN TOLEDO:

#### **B.G.S.U. Dance Marathon & Bike for Tikes**

Dear Friends and Family of First St. John,

Every year, Bowling Green State University holds a huge philanthropic event called Dance Marathon, which helps raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. BG's Dance Marathon is responsible for raising money that goes to the Mercy Children's Hospital in Toledo. Over the past 16 years, BG's Dance Marathon has raised 2.2 million dollars that has gone directly to helping children and the Mercy Children's Hospital and their families. In addition to dancing, many students choose to ride their bikes from Cincinnati to Bowling Green as a way to help raise money while Dance Marathon is going on back in BG. So, this year (my freshman year) I have decided to take on the bike trip and do my part to help raise money for the kids in need.

If you are able to make a donation, it will go toward helping children overcome life altering and terminal disease as well as educating the families and friends of these children so they may better understand and handle their child's unfortunate situation. If you choose to make a donation you may do so either online or by sending a donation through the mail. *(Donation directions are on the back of this page if you receive the newsletter via "snail mail" or in a separate document if you receive the newsletter by email).*

If you have any questions about Dance Marathon, the Bike for Tikes ride or how to donate, please feel free to contact me at **cfolk@bgsu.edu** or **419.309.8409**. BGSU, the Children's Miracle Network and I all appreciate donations of any size.

For the Kids!

Chelsea Folk

## FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES—DECEMBER 21, 2010

Bill called the meeting to order. Devotions were read by Pastor Blohm. Bill thanked the council for attending tonight's meeting. Bill had council look over last meeting's minutes.

**Treasurer Report** November was a good month for the current fund, making up about \$9,000 into the shortfall. So we are still about \$22,000 short for the year. It is hoped that we can make the gap closer before the end of the year. We will still be short approximately \$15,000--\$17,000

**Finance Report** Jim added to the treasurer's report by reporting about a letter from the synod about giving to Salem Lutheran Church. So we will put some money aside for them for 2011.

**Board of Education** They are working on the new member luncheon for January. Christmas program went very well on Sunday.

**Elder Report** The elders covered the Dayschool programs. Attendance was overwhelming on Tuesday night because of having a large class and also on Wednesday night due to making up for a program that was canceled on Monday. Christmas Eve services are covered. One wedding on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December is covered as well. Eight weddings are scheduled for 2011 with 4 in October. Bill made a new schedule for the 2011 year and they are short 2 elders, but services will be covered. Bernie will be chairman of the elders for 2011.

**Property Mgt.** They are repairing faucets around the church. Fire pressure system upstairs is done and soon will be connected to our security system. Projector needs replacing and is in a holding pattern until after Christmas because of the need for scaffolding. Electrical issues have been discovered, and some upgrades will need to be made.

**Dayschool Report** No Report

**Youth Report** Pastor gave the report for Mary as she was ill. Last Thursday they wrapped gifts for their chosen families. She heard good comments about the Christmas program. Both families that benefited from the Christmas presents given by our congregation were very grateful.

**Pastor Report** Pastor had a list of people that transferred in: Timothy Antoine, Christopher Oberhaus, Jeff and Ethel Hierholzer and their children. Pastor reiterated the Christmas Eve service times.

**New Business** The council received a card from the Al-Anon group thanking the church for letting them use the Educational Building for their meetings throughout the year.

Bill invited us to his house on January 23 at 6:00 for the next meeting. Members going off and members coming on along with their spouses are invited, as well as the rest of the council.

**Old Business** Lisa brought up the idea of advertising our church to the community and to the Dayschool parents. Postcards were printed to be signed and sent to Dayschool parents and Sunday School parents to invite them to our church with a short paragraph about the traditions of our church. The 150<sup>th</sup> year reunion committee is working to publish articles and have activities throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Habegger

### WANTED: SCRAPBOOKERS, CARDMAKERS, & CRAFTERS

Join us in 2011 for Crafter Saturdays, a great opportunity for dedicated time to work on your favorite craft hobby while enjoying the company of friends from your church family. Bring your supplies and materials and meet in the lounge for a day of crafting (whatever your craft is) and socializing. Scrapbookers, cardmakers, jewelry makers, knitters, etc. are all welcome. Bring a sack lunch and drink and make a day of it. Dates are planned through 2011, except for June, July and August. We meet one Saturday a month beginning Jan. 15, 2011 at 1:00 pm. To sign up or for more info, call Connie Koch at 419.693.1774.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING —DECEMBER 12, 2010

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President Bill Caldwell opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. after first service. Bill asked the elders to pass out the ballots.

Lisa Anderson gave the treasurer's report, reporting we have taken in around \$277,000 so far this year and are still short \$19,000.

The new boilers have saved us money and we also haven't spent as much money on worship and education.

Finance Chairman, Jim Sommers then explained the 2011 budget. There are increases and decreases and there will be upcoming repairs.

Chris Kissling asked why the estimate for electricity was lower. Jim explained the new boilers will save us money. Chris also questioned the phone and water estimates. Jim explained the phone bill also included the internet and they didn't know that Toledo was thinking of raising rates on water when they made out the budget.

Bill explained they couldn't increase the staff's pay this year.

Bill asked for nominations from the floor for elders. There were none.

Bill then thanked all the members that are going off council. He then dismissed the congregation and announced the meeting would continue after late service.

**AFTER SECOND SERVICE** – Bill continued the 149<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Lisa again gave the treasurer's report.

Jim Sommers again detailed the budget. He explained we now have two new boilers compared to seven to nine old boilers. The real estate taxes have increased because the Lutheran Home gave us 50 ft. across the back of the cemetery.

Bill announced if anyone would like to serve as an elder to please contact him or the elders.

He then thanked Tom Haskins, Darold Henninger, Gene Schacht, Joanne Henningsen and Melissa Lang who are going off council. He then dismissed the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Bell for Diane Habegger



### ***FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY*** ***JANUARY 9, 2011***

In Luke 2, Jesus is taken to the temple by Mary and Joseph and He receives a blessing from both Simeon and Anna. Blessings are very important to us.

On Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> we will have the opportunity to come to the railing as a family (and yes, one person is a family in God's eyes) and receive a blessing from the pastor. You can come up with different components of your extended family (you and your spouse, you and your daughter's family, etc.) as many times as you want. What a special way to begin 2011!

### **WOMEN'S WELLNESS SEMINAR POSTPONED**

The Women's Wellness event originally scheduled for January 22, 2011 has been postponed until a later date. Please watch your bulletins and newsletters for the reschedule date.

### ***OTHER WELCA NEWS***

Thanks to everyone who helped deliver poinsettias to our homebound members last month, as they really appreciate being remembered at Christmas. Also, the 2011 Rosters will be available soon in the lounge. Our next board meeting is Monday, January 17th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.