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# ◊ First St. John Journal ◊

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Volume 24, Issue 11

November, 2011

**"B**lessed is the person who can enjoy the small things, the common beauties, the little day-by-day events: sunshine on the fields, birds on the bough, breakfast, dinner, a friend passing by. So many people who go afield to search for happiness have left it behind them back home sitting on the front porch."

- David Grayson

He hit the nail right on the head. As we approach another November and another day of Thanksgiving, we hear that Toledo made the list of the top ten poorest mid-sized cities in the country. Sometimes it seems all we hear about is the negative news around us. That's why I particularly like this quote from David Grayson. He reminds us that sometimes – most times – happiness isn't found in the faraway places. Most times happiness can be found right where we are, near to us, if we look for it. The key is knowing where to look – a child's eyes, a whispered, "I'm sorry," a festival meal with family and friends and, most of all, sensing and knowing the presence of God every single day.

May each day of November be a day of thanksgiving for you.

"Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20

-Pastor Blohm

## **ATTENTION: TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Please note a schedule change in November. We will NOT meet on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> due to the council meeting being rescheduled that day. Instead, we will meet on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. (We're just switching weeks with council.) Please make a note of it. Thanks.

## **TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS!**



Daylight savings time ends November 5th. Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11th following both services in order to elect council members and vote on the 2011 budget.



## **GOSPEL MUSIC SUNDAY**

Don't miss Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15 service! In lieu of a sermon that day, the choir will perform some gospel music favorites.

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOVEMBER 22nd**

## **CHICKEN AND HAM DINNER**

**Saturday, November 5th  
4:00 pm —7:00 pm**

Take Out Available  
Tickets Available from any circle member, in the church office, and at the door!

### **Ticket Prices:**

Adults: \$9.00  
Children: \$4.00  
Children under 3 are free

### ***Don't Forget the Craft Sale!***

Stop by the lounge during the dinner. You can view and buy beautiful craft items. Bake sale items also will be available.

## MILITARY ADDRESSES

These are the 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!

*TSgt Kevin Fouty*

Address temporarily unavailable

*SGT Nick Grady*

2711B Chow Circle  
Kailua, HI 96734

*Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson*  
44425 Scobee  
California, MD 20619

*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*  
4924 Soaring Springs Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89131

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

## BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 8th at 6:00 pm in the lounge.

## Member Address Changes



Donna Cedoz  
Lutheran Home Assisted Living  
2519 Seaman St. Apt. 8  
Toledo, OH 43605

Marge Heninger  
Lutheran Home Assisted Living  
2519 Seaman St. Apt. 4  
Toledo, OH 43605

Jeff & Jessica Wilson  
PO Box 1211  
Polson, MT 59860  
(MaKaela, MaKenzy, MaKenzy)

## SECRET SANTA PROGRAM

The Lutheran Home needs individuals or groups to “adopt” its residents for Christmas. To obtain a resident’s name and his or her wish list, contact Diane Cline at 419-693-0751. Please wrap your gift and place a name tag on it to identify who the gift is for. The deadline to return gifts to the home is Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help.

## WOMEN’S AWARENESS SUNDAY

Women’s Awareness Sunday is November 13th.



## WELCA NOVEMBER PROGRAM AND BREAKFAST

Join WELCA when Liz Woolaver and Pricilla Turner from Restorative Concepts will speak on “An Integrative Approach to Pain Relief” on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. A continental breakfast will be served, and we’ll have door prizes. We’ll also have a short business meeting to elect 2012 officers and approve the 2012 budget.

## \*\*\* ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS \*\*\*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



## MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our next meeting is Saturday, November 5th at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. We're calling this meeting "Breakfast Before the Dinner." Come and enjoy a good breakfast before working at the Chicken and Ham Dinner. All men are invited. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTICE

We will not have Sunday School on November 27th because of the Thanksgiving weekend. We'll resume classes on December 4th.

### NOTICE: ALL GROUPS



The church will be decorated for Christmas on Friday, November 25. Please do not schedule any events in the church that day so our decorators can work in there. Thank you.

## FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

For November, we will concentrate on collecting MORE peanutbutter (the country is expecting a peanut shortage) AND cans of fruits and vegetables and bathroom tissue. Please bring your canned goods and non-perishable food items and place your donations in the bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) and the lounge (near the double doors). No glass containers because these can break when handling. Thank you for your help.

### ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
11/6	Darold Henninger Linda Kusian	Kevin Ruedy Bill Nelson
11/13	Linda Erdmann Dick Haar	Eric Johnson Linda Kusian
11/20	Mike Winslow Dick Haar	Jeff Smith Jim Swanson
11/27	Kevin Ruedy Bill Nelson	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### Births

10/18/11 *Sawyer Paul Mullen*, born to Keith and Lisa (Zielinski) Mullen.

### Baptisms

10/2/11 *Kaylee Jo and Kyle Daniel King*, twins born June 23, 2011 to Keith and Shanna (Henningsen) King. Sponsors for Kaylee are Jon & Melissa Lang and Brant Anderson. Sponsors for Kyle are Donna Henningsen, Bryan Kusian, and Bryce Anderson.

10/16/11 *Kimberly Rose Donley*, born July 22, 2011 to Jerid and Stacy (Cowell) Donley. Sponsors are Tony Cowell and Jacob Donley.

### Marriages

10/1/11 Erin Laurell and Matt Hagedorn

10/8/11 Jessica Whitney and Jacob Donley

10/15/11 Melissa Kudelka and Matt Wiener

10/22/11 Abbie Skorupa and Shane Masserant

### Deaths

10/24/11 Gloria Romano

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

## THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH

Thank you to all who donated to the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Our total is \$620. Because you cared, we can help both those suffering from Alzheimer's and their caregivers. There's still time to donate on-line at: [www.2011alzheimerswalk.kintera.org/toledoohio](http://www.2011alzheimerswalk.kintera.org/toledoohio) or you can contact me anytime.

-- Janine Contat



## **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR**

The Oregon-Jerusalem Historical Society's 2011 Holiday Home Tour is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 from noon to 4:00 pm both days. This year's tour will feature the "Old Eastmoreland" subdivision. This subdivision was developed in the 1920's and was one of the first in Oregon. In addition to the 6 homes being featured, the tour will include First St. John and the Lutheran Orphanage Society that are both celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries this year.

Tours begin at 15-minute intervals on both days; times may be scheduled by contacting Connie Isbell at 419-367-5254 or Wanda Rice at 419-691-8328. Advance tickets are \$10; tickets at the door are \$12. We look forward to seeing you for this holiday tour.

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

*(continued from page 12)*

**Old Business**-Bill talked about the nominating committee; they still need 3 elders and a president. Need to find people to help out on these committees. Cemetery renovation is still in progress. The workers have straightened stones, etc. We are still raising money for the symphony to come in December. Tickets and thank you notes will go out to donors. The tickets will go on sale to church members on November 6.

**New Business**-Recording communion for 2012 will be on a computer spreadsheet because the current hard copy cards in the church office will no longer be available at the end of this year. Thanks to Jim Sommers for coming up with the idea to move the communion records to a spreadsheet. The communing members' names will be imported to the spreadsheet soon.

Bill asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lori Pfeiffer motioned and Linda Erdman seconded it. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Habegger

## **TOLEDO SYMPHONY — TICKET SALES & DONATION INFORMATION**

The entire Toledo Symphony will perform a Christmas concert at First St John on Saturday, December 17th.

**Ticket Information:** Concert tickets go on sale to church members on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10 per person. Tickets will be sold only to church members for two weeks before being available to the public, so make sure you get your tickets early.

**How to Donate:** Our goal is to raise as much money as possible to minimize the cost of a ticket so all our members can attend. We have created the following donation levels:

Platinum	\$500 or more
Gold	\$250 - \$499
Silver	\$100 - \$249
Patron	\$25 - \$50

Donors will be listed in the program that will be handed out at the concert.

**How to Help:** We also need volunteers to help this event go smoothly. If you can help, please contact the church office or Bill Caldwell.

This should be an exciting event and a fitting way to celebrate 150 years of First St John members' faithful service to the community and world.

## **THANK YOU**

Recently we purchased three sets of 4-foot risers. These risers fold and are on wheels for easy storage and setup. Because their main use may be by the children, we volunteered the use of money from the Children's Choir Fund for the largest part of their purchase. A sincere "THANK YOU" to those who donated to this fund over the years through gifts and memorials. This is the first purchase made from the Children's Choir Fund and I especially thank those who have regularly contributed, enabling us to serve the kids at First St. John. In appreciation,



—Betty Hyre, J.A.M. Music Director

## MEMORIALS

### ALTAR GUILD

In honor of **Claudia Patchen's** 60<sup>th</sup> birthday by Penny DeWitt.

In memory of **Floyd Koester** by Gary & Linda Kusian.

### HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Kate Counterman** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of **Joan Bailey** by Jean Garey.

In memory of **Floyd Koester** by Jean Garey.

### ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Marion Roth** by Marilyn Cashen.

In honor of **Kaylee Jo & Kyle Daniel King's** baptism by Ada Kreger.

In memory of **Joan Bailey** by Ada Kreger.

In memory of **Naomi Foss** by Ada Kreger.

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Earl Warnke and Debbie Lofquist.

### CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Joan Bailey** by Louise & Jim Sommers.

### CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Richard Sheets** by Jim & Sandy Hecklinger.

In memory of **Floyd Koester** by Olga Zimmerman.

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Elnore Groll.

For All Saints Day by Irene Abbott.

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Joan Bailey** by Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker.

In memory of **Floyd & Marie Koester and Harold & Ruth Henninger** and all the memories they shared by M/M Darold Henninger.

In honor of **George Ackerman's** 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Philip Huffman, M/M John Hotz.

### AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of **Joan Bailey** by Sandra Stahl.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

In memory of **Gary DeWitt** by Gary & Linda Kusian and family.

## CHRISTMAS CD BY JOEL HAMILTON



First St. John's own Joel Hamilton performs on a Christmas CD that is now available for \$10. All proceeds from the sale of this CD benefit the Cherry Street Mission. If you'd like to order one, please see John Rowley or call Toni in the church office (please submit \$10 with your order). The CD will be available before Thanksgiving.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DEADLINE

The deadline for turning in shoeboxes is November 20th. Empty, but decoratively wrapped, shoeboxes are in the lounge and the Narthex. Pick one or more boxes and a list of suggested items you can fill the boxes with. Once filled, return the shoeboxes to the church office. If you can, please include \$7 to help with shipping costs. Thank you.

## LIBRARY NEWS



The book **WOMEN of the BIBLE** has been donated to the library. Women have played exciting roles across the centuries. This book identifies every woman in the Bible and presents real life facts of these women.

—Marilyn Cashen

## ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

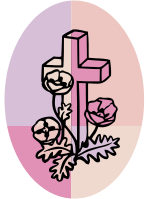


Come join us on Sunday, December 4th at 6:00 pm in the gym for our annual adult Christmas party. Takacs Catering will prepare a chicken paprikas dinner for us. (Entertainment is yet to be determined.) Free will offering. So we know how many dinners to order, please fill out the RSVP below and turn it in to the office (or fax or mail it in). Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

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Yes! I/we will attend the Christmas Party December 4th

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



## WE REMEMBER...

On All Saints Sunday, November 6th, we remember the saints of First St. John who entered the Church Triumphant during the past year.

Larry D. Haar	2/17/1945 - 11/16/2010
Marilyn Koester	5/23/1928 - 12/15/2010
Warren E. Danekind	6/27/1920 - 12/16/2010
Annabell Szabo	2/20/1934 - 1/23/2011
Raymond A. Zimmerman	10/03/1914 - 1/24/2011
Kathryn E. Webb	1/02/1922 - 1/25/2011
Fred L. Saelzler	4/23/1916 - 2/15/2011
Larry T. Lorenzen	9/15/1942 - 3/26/2011
Doratha R. Berger	7/08/1925 - 3/28/2011
Doris J. Higley	4/29/1929 - 5/03/2011
Lawrence W. Kelly	9/02/1928 - 6/07/2011
Viola M. Nelson	12/18/1917 - 6/15/2011
Marion E. Roth	3/23/1917 - 7/07/2011
William C. Ehrsam	7/05/1930 - 7/13/2011
Gary R. DeWitt	1/04/1949 - 8/04/2011
Floyd W. Koester	8/30/1917 - 9/10/2011
Katherine Counterman	6/15/1918 - 9/12/2011
Gloria Romano	7/14/1931 - 10/24/2011

*And we remember these friends & family members:*

Angela Heisler, Andrea Schumaker, Austin Takacs, Charles & Jane Rice, Dr. Edward Schuler II, Gerald Addison Newell, Howard Schuffenecker

## STILL COLLECTING HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS, ETC.



WELCA is still collecting hats, mittens, socks, and boots for local children. Hat and mitten sizes 0-5 go to the Toledo Day Nursery, and sizes 6-Adult go to Riverside School and Raymer School. We also will collect toddler and preschool size socks and boots for the Toledo Day Nursery. Place your donations in the specially marked boxes in the Narthex and/or in the lounge. Thank you.

## FORMER PASTORS & CHARTER MEMBERS TO BE HONORED

On All Saints Day, November 6, we'll honor our "Sainted Servants" whom God chose to bring us the Gospel--Pastors Carl Beckel, William Wacke, E. C. Willer, Ronald Staber and Gerd Heidmann; and the members who in 1863 signed the original Charter making First St. John's a reality: Christoph Ackerman, Johann Bitter, John Frederick Clausing, Frederick Kohne, Heinrich Kohne, Johann Dietrich Kohne, Leonhard Schmidt and Henry Tiedjen.

Eggleston-Meinert-Pavley has graciously donated new signs to help us identify these grave sites. Following either service, YOU are invited to help us place these signs in the cemetery. Our cemetery restoration is now in full swing with repairs to over 130 headstones. Many stones were completely buried and have been raised and reset. Please take a minute to either walk or drive through the cemetery and admire the work that has been done so far. The restoration is an ongoing two-to three-year volunteer project! Blessed be the saints!!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Pastor Gerald Labuhn has been honored with Capital University's Hugo C. Wenzel Award of Merit. Pastor Labuhn graduated from Capital University where he ran in sprints and relays for the track team and also was Capital's varsity track coach in 1950.

He also formed baseball, basketball and softball teams at parishes in Toledo and Detroit and has coached 44 youth baseball and softball teams. Beginning in 1991 at Clay High School, Pastor Labuhn served as a volunteer coach for eight spring seasons and 11 summer seasons, posting records of 71-20 (freshmen), 57-23 (junior varsity), and 118-45 (summer).

"I have seldom worked with an individual so willing to give so much of his time and expertise for young people," said Robert Pfefferle, retired superintendent of Oregon City Schools. "Many of Pastor Labuhn's former players to this day acknowledge him as the coach that made the biggest difference in their lives."

*(reprinted from Capital University's Alumni magazine)*



## First St. John Prayer Chain

(as of 10/26/11)



**Crisis Prayer List:** *For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after one month unless we're contacted about special circumstances:*

**Jessie Blanchong  
Melissa Boos  
Rosie Burtch  
Family of Don Cousino  
Sarah Pawlaczyk  
Dorothy Welniak**

**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 we're contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**Anonymous Family  
Family of Joan Bailey  
Jordyn Beckhusen  
Emma Carpenter  
Family of Gary DeWitt  
John Deuble  
Bernie Erdmann  
Family of Bill Ehram  
Chad Everhardt  
Jerry Gears  
Herman Jeskey  
Kailea (no last name given)  
Paul Kuhlman  
Ronnie Lamantia  
George "Skip" McCullough  
Family of Kruse Navarre  
Charles Nelms  
Charlie Ohlson  
Gene Price  
Cathy Redmond  
Zee Robinson and Family  
Family of Virginia Rowe  
Hilda Saelzler  
Bishop Sanchez  
Steve & Connie Singlar  
Keith Snider  
John Van Sant**

*(continued on page 8)*

## ***NEWS FROM OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR***

Give thanks to God regarding His love, goodness and faithfulness.

Psalm 118:1 "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

Thanksgiving. What do you think about when you hear the word Thanksgiving? Traditionally, you may think about the Thanksgiving meal with family and friends. Truly, Thanksgiving triggers many memories. First and foremost, Thanksgiving reminds us to thank God for His many benefits. As you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, respond to God's goodness in your life by telling a family member or friend about Jesus Christ and/or setting aside a specific time of prayer alone or with family and friends to thank God for all the blessings that come to mind. Finally, obey what God has told you through His uncompromising Word. When we respond to God's goodness by applying what He tells us in His Word, we truly glorify Him. This is what Thanksgiving is all about. May God continually bless you over and above all that you expect.

### **Youth Group**

We will continue to meet every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Anyone in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, please feel free to join us! We have breakfast, great conversations and lots of fun! We are in the process of planning a Thanksgiving potluck for early November.

### **Upcoming Activities**

JAM: 9:00 a.m. every Sunday

### **Upcoming JAM Schedule**

November 6: Godly Living: Who Will Go?  
November 13: Godly Living: Heavenly Homes  
November 20: Real Thanksgiving  
November 27: NO JAM

**Christmas Program is December 11, 2011 at the 10:15 Service. A reception will follow.**

## 2011 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. 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 4, 2011.**

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

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

In Honor of (Living):

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

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR OFFERING GIVING MUCH EASIER . . .

The Simply Giving program is a **simple** way of making your contributions count. If you can't make it to church-- you're on vacation, work, family events, illness, overslept, etc., your contributions will still go toward helping us maintain all the expenses needed to operate our church. Just fill out the form on the next page and put it in the offering plate or fax it (419-691-7220) to the church office.

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

*(continued from page 7)*

#### **Chronic Prayer List (continued)**

**Bob Webb  
Candy Webster  
Terry Williams  
Raetta Zeisler**

Please check the list and let any prayer chain contact-listed below-know if anyone can be moved off the list.

#### **Prayer Chain Contacts**

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

## **Thanksgiving**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Dayschool is preparing for its annual Thanksgiving feasts on Tuesday, November 15 (10:45 & 2:15), Wednesday, November 16 (10:45 & 2:15), Thursday, November 17 (10:45) and Friday, November 18 (10:45). The children prepare the entire menu, which includes "stone" soup, pumpkin bread, lemon bars, and cornucopias. Volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up on any or all of these days.

This is a great opportunity to mingle with the parents and give them a glimpse of the friendly, welcoming atmosphere of First St. John. Please call Toni in the church office (419-691-7222) if you are able to help.



Mail completed form to:  
 Vanco Services, LLC  
 12600 Whitewater Dr. Suite 200  
 Minnetonka, MN 55343



Fax completed form to:  
 952-983-8665

## Member Enrollment and Authorization Form

### Complete This Section for ALL Enrollments (Please Print)

<b>1</b>	Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial
	Mailing Address		City	State	ZIP Code
	Home Telephone Number		Work Telephone Number		
<b>2</b>	Check the appropriate box: <input type="checkbox"/> New enrollment/authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change in authorized amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change in account				
<b>3</b>	Gifts/payments should be taken from:		<b>REQUIRED:</b> I authorize Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Vanco Services, LLC to automatically withdraw contributions/tuition payments/donations from my account. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking (attach a voided check) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings (attach a savings deposit slip)				
	Routing Number _____ Valid routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number _____				
			Account Holder Signature _____		<b>4</b>
*** ATTACH EITHER A VOIDED CHECK OR A SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP ***					

### Complete This Section for Lutheran Congregation Donations

<b>5</b>	Congregation Name		Street Address		
	City		State	ZIP Code	
<b>Frequency of Funds Transfer (Please check only one):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly on Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly on Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly (transferred on 1st and 15th of each month) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th		<b>Church Fund Designations:</b> General/Operating _____ \$ _____ Building _____ \$ _____ Evangelism/Outreach _____ \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></p>		<b>Amount</b> \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	
START DATE: _____					
Church Envelope Number: _____					

### Complete This Section for Lutheran School Tuition Payments

<b>5</b>	School Name		Street Address		
	City		State	ZIP Code	
Total annual tuition for all family members \$ _____ Divided by number of monthly payments (see below) Amount of each monthly payment \$ _____		Date of first payment: _____ Date of last payment: _____ Student's Tuition Number: _____			
Please contact your school for information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment duration options (e.g., 10 months or 12 months)</li> <li>• Date the first and last payments are due</li> <li>• Date during each month that the transaction will occur</li> <li>• Student's school tuition number</li> </ul>					

### Complete This Section for Lutheran Institution Donations

<b>5</b>	Institution Name		Street Address		
	City		State	ZIP Code	
Date of Monthly Gift Transfer (Please check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th Amount of each monthly gift (minimum \$5) \$ _____		Date of first payment: _____ Date of last payment*: _____ * Note: If you want your gift to be given continuously until you notify us to change the amount or stop the gift, please write "CONT." as the date of the last payment.			

### FOR CONGREGATION/INSTITUTION OFFICE USE ONLY

Congregation/Institution Code: _____		Date: _____	
Envelope/Participant Number: _____		Verifier Initials: _____	



## ***FROM THE FIRST SECRETARY TO THE MOUSE***



The location of the Mouse remains a mystery. It has been seen and then evaporates before we are able to capture it. Since no one is indispensable, we must continue to report on the state of affairs.

Upon entering the church our attention is quickly drawn to the Altar and the stained glass above. The stained glass image is the same as that above the Altar in the 1876 church. The image is called "Praying in the Garden."

The lettering on the front of the Altar was a mystery to me for many years. In the early years the Altar was stained wood and the lettering was difficult to see. The letters "I" and "H," blended into the background and I could see only the "S," so I thought it was a dollar sign. My perception was quietly, but quickly, corrected.

So what does the IHS stand for? The Greek work for Jesus was IHCOYC. IHC was ancient Greek that later became IHS as a Latin expression. The symbols to the right and left are Alpha and Omega, which stand for Jesus Christ and also "the first and the last" and "The beginning and the end."

Everything about the Altar and Sanctuary is precise and orderly. Have you ever wondered about our traditions? Almost 100 years ago the pastor and family cared for all the paraments and robes. Old records indicate that Pastor Wiederander in 1944 was the first to ask for help with these chores. At that time there were two ladies organizations. An Altar Committee of two was appointed alternately from the Ladies Aid and Gleaners Societies to serve for three months at a time.

Our electric altar candles were replaced with real candles, and other duties became part of the Altar Committee. In 1957, Pastor Heidmann initiated a permanent Altar Committee of two ladies. Within a couple years, the committee grew to six.

The church office moved to the new Education Building in 1961. The Altar Committee then made its home in the vacated office and began to organize itself. If we assume that 1961 marked the "new" Altar Committee, then we have another 50th anniversary to celebrate within our 150th.

Pastor Willer called a meeting to officially form "The Altar Guild of First St. John Church" in 1968. In the mid 70's a few young girls assisted the Guild, and boys became Acolytes. Today we have both boys and girls as Acolytes.

An old history of the Altar Guild began with, "In reminiscing, we have seen a lot of changes since 1861 when our St. John's congregation was organized as a church with eight charter members, and German was the official language of the congregation for fifty years, until the English language predominated in 1920 . . . Women had no voice in the early church, and did not vote. They were Sunday School teachers, babysitters and cooks for the annual Mission Festival of the church."

The Altar Guild constitution and histories are detailed with the knowledge required to carry out the duties and traditions. Our ladies are well trained and work with diligence. Check them out early before or late after Sunday services.

I wonder. Could a male be elected to the Altar Guild? A search of the membership lists reveals that Steve Dunaway was an Associate in 1990 and Vice President in 1991. Former Altar Guild member Peggy Torda says, "He was very proud to be the first and, to my knowledge, only male to be on Altar Guild." Will anyone else accept the challenge?



## Happy Thanksgiving From Our Dayschool Kindergartners



*Dear Friends,*

*As we reflect on the Thanksgiving holiday, the Dayschool kindergarten children would like to share what they're thankful for.*

*Thank you, God, for . . .*

The world.

— *Carter Baxter*

Giving me life.

— *Grant Thiel*

Dying on the cross.

— *Ayden Vondran*

Giving me a home.

— *Vinny Gallaher*

Air.

— *Jack Lake*

My mom, dad, and my dog, Slugger.

— *Brooklyn Bosch*

Making my mom, dad, and me.

— *Avery Adler*

Spiders!

— *Zachary Russell*

My mom, dad, and my brother.

— *Alyson Walendzak*

Giving us food.

— *Kyler Ayers*

My mom, dad, and my whole family.

— *Samantha Martin*

My brother named Johnny.

— *Joshua Berry*

My mom.

— *Xander Wong*

Making the apple trees.

— *Isabelle "Izzy" Vriezelaar*

Making my sister.

— *Paige Hornyak*

Giving and sharing.

— *Brynli Grabowski*

Children.

— *Olivia Carlen*

My friends.

— *Antonio Toth*

Apple trees and my baby brother.

— *Chloe Spetz*

My mom and dad.

— *Adrianna Sass*

Having toys and games.

— *Emma Beamer*

Making my sister.

— *Logan Lohner*

Lions!

— *Vincent Barton*

Giving us food.

— *Ellie Bill*

Making me.

— *Nathan Lewinski*

Giving us food and for my dog.

— *Aiden Guthrie*

Everything.

— *Lainee Partin*

Stars.

— *Reagan Fairbanks*

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—OCTOBER 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Caldwell. The devotions were done by Pastor Blohm. Bill suggested the council move forward in that, according to the constitution, we need a majority of the group present to vote on issues during the council meetings, not 2/3. The minutes were read and approved from the last 2 meetings. Gary Henningsen brought up the motion to approve the minutes and Karen Holmes seconded it and the motion passed.

**Board of Education**—The Sunday School department is helping with the Trunk or Treat program. Attendance is about 50-60 children per Sunday. Youth is also coming back. The parents downstairs are being taught by Lisa Anderson and Jen Cromly. A Christmas program is being looked at for a performance in December.

**Elders Report**—There is one wedding left this year, and it is on Saturday. Schedule for rest of year is set. Bill Nelson asked to accept Kevin Ruedy as an elder. Lori Pfeiffer made the motion and Gary Henningsen seconded it. He was approved.

**Property Management Report**—There is damage in the valley of the roof and it has been repaired. Two of the organ's sub-woofers have been damaged and they will be replaced with insurance coverage. New microphones have been purchased for pastor and a second person. Parking lot repairs are on hold. Detention pond has been drained. Windows for the church are on hold until spring. Window in choir room will be repaired. The boilers have been cleaned and inspected.

**Treasurer Report/Finance Report**—Jim gave the treasurer report. There was a shortfall in Sept by about \$2,300 dollars. The church is \$20,000 short in current funds. We need to catch up before the end of the year. Focus should be on memorials, current, debt retirement, and improvement funds. Budget for upcoming year is now being planned. A capital campaign needs to be designed to help cover the cost of windows and parking lot repairs. The cost will be about \$150,000. There will be a lot of expenses to the church in the next few years for repairs and upkeep. The congregation has done a phenomenal

job in keeping up with expenses in the past. Bill asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report tonight and all in the past. Gary Henningsen made the motion and Mike Winslow seconded it. The motion passed. Matt DeWitt's name was brought up to fill his father's term on the finance committee. Jim Sommers made a motion and Dan Huguely seconded it. The motion passed.

**Youth Report**—All kindergartners have a prayer buddy. Jamie and Barb Shellhammer are putting together the mom's group. A logo is being created. First meeting will be a breakfast in January. Trunk or Treat has about 10-11 cars in the group. Youth group will help set up Trunk or Treat. Operation Christmas Child has started collecting shoeboxes to be sent out. The Dayschool parents will also participate in this project. A new youth director has been hired by St. Mark, and Jamie will be meeting with her. A traditional Christmas program is being planned with one-line speaking parts. Younger students will sing. The program is Dec 11 at the 10:15 service.

Jamie is sending a letter to confirmation parents telling them about the duties the students can do at the services. There was discussion about having catechism class on Sunday morning as opposed to a week night class. The idea is to have the students more involved with church activities and to learn more about the church.

**Dayschool Report**—Dayschool enrollment has increased. 72 students are being fed for lunch versus 40-50 from last year. The afternoon classes are full except for one.

**Pastor Report**—Pastor Blohm had no transfers to report. Pastors Ken Fouty and Kathy Meyers were thanked for their time in the pulpit these past few weeks. There was a Bishop's meeting for area pastors. He said 17 churches in our synod have left the ELCA. Please pray for our Dayschool teacher Bonnie Petroff on the death of her father, and also for Steve and Connie Singlar and Bernie Erdmann. Keith and Lisa Mullen had a son they named Sawyer.