
♥ First St. John Journal ♥

Volume 25, Issue 2

February 2012

As we look ahead, we see that February leads us to the season of Lent in the church year. Lent doesn't have to be a hushed, somber time. Lent for us is usually a time for meditation and reflection, but it can also be a time for spiritual renewal—a time for us to look a little deeper into the sacrifice and work of Jesus Christ and to have our faith in Christ renewed.

In Hebrews 10:35-36 we read these words of renewal: "So do not throw away your confidence (or faith), it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what God has promised."

This year, the theme for our mid-week Wednesday Lenten services will be *The Body Of Christ*. We will meditate on The Feet of Christ, the Eyes, the Hands, the Mouth, the listening Ears and the Heart of Christ. Our worship times will be the same as last year: a noon chapel service and a 7:00pm evening service. Please come and join us—so that together we may renew our faith as we prepare for the great celebration of our Lord's victory.

—Pastor Blohm

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 17**

2012 HOME PLATE



Tickets are available for the 2012 Home Plate event with the Detroit Tigers on Saturday, April 21st at Comerica Park as the Tigers take on the Texas Rangers. 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 \$27 per person. Call the church office to reserve your tickets, or you can email the church office at office@firststjohn.com. We only ordered 15 tickets, so if you want to go, call soon!

DARTBALL TOURNAMENT



A tournament for First St. John teams #1 and #2 will be here at First St. John on Mon., February 6th at 7:00 pm in the gym.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

For February, we are concentrating on canned soup, canned vegetables, and canned fruit. Please place your donations (no glass jars, please) in the Feed Your Neighbor bins in the Narthex under the main bulletin board or in the bin in the lounge underneath the side tables. Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday begins February 22nd. Services will be at noon in the chapel and 7:00 pm in the church. Each Wednesday in Lent we hold services at noon in the chapel and 7:00 pm in church. See Pastor's article to the left for this year's theme for upcoming services. We look forward to seeing you!

MEMORIALS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In memory of **Brenda Nissen Gilbertson** by Jim & Janet Fox.

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Donna Koester, Todd & Susan Rathke, Dan & June Howland and girls, Deb Lofquist, Earl Warnke; Kathy, Larry and Aaron Wilhelm, Mark & Carol Rule, Judy Huffman, Pastor & Mrs. Gerald Labuhn, M/M Dennis Despones, M/M James Netcher, M/M William Pierce, M/M Donald Netcher, Dennis & Lisa Pavley.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Larry Teems** by M/M Kevin Ruedy, Jared and Wesley, Walbridge VFW Post 9963, Pastor Gerald and Ilean Labuhn.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Gene Hagedorn, Hilda Saelzler.

IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by the Ruth Circle, Esther Bell, Carl & Janet Morrison, Jean DeWitt, Ada Kreger.

In memory of **Steve Singlar** by Ada Kreger.

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Bonnie Varga.

ORGAN FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Dan & Lisa Kessler, Lloyd & Heidi Lind, Ray Panning, Dave & Lore Warnke, Phil & Mary Ann Cervantes, John & Roxann Satkowski, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Bill & Donna Nelson and family, Dorothy Dippman, Mark & Barb Bushman, Kathryn Lumbrezer, Becky Box, Marilyn Cashen, Richard & Jane Phillips.

BOILER FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Tom, Sandy & Kevin Garverick, Daniel & Sharon Czyzewski, Nicholas & Istrate Costein, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Jerry & Stephanie Bell and family, Douglas & Leslie Habegger, Marge Clark, William Duty Family, Dave & Beth Hodges.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Penny DeWitt.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Dan, Joyce, Jean & Patrick Martin, William Fischhaber.

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by M/M Duane Hubaker.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Eleanor Habegger** by Leona Arnold, Louise & Jim Sommers.

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: office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMBER UPDATES



Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

1-15-12 *Sawyer Paul Mullen*, born October 17, 2011 to Keith and Lisa (Zielinski) Mullen. Sponsors are Paul Mullen and Shawn Jacobs.

Marriages None.

Deaths None.

Transfers to St. John:

Winona "Winnie" Wohlgamuth from St. Luke's Lutheran in Curtice, Ohio.

Transfers from St. John:

Jeff & Jessika Wilson and their daughters MaKaela, MaKenzy, and MaKenna to Good Shepherd Lutheran in Polson, Montana.

COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENTS STILL AVAILABLE

First St. John's 24K gold-on-brass ornaments commemorating our 150th anniversary are available in the church office. Price is \$15 each. Call or email Toni in the church office if you'd like one.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2012 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.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Our first dinner on January 18th was well attended. We hope more of you can join us for our next dinner, which is Tuesday, March 13th at 6:00 pm. On the menu that night will be spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverages. Put us on your calendar now, and remember, if you need transportation, we can arrange it for you. Stay tuned to future bulletins and the March newsletter for a chance to RSVP to March's event. See you there!

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!

Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson
44425 Scobee
California, MD 20619

Chief Petty Officer Marc Le Duc
78382 Dukewood Trail
Yula, FL 32097

1st LT Michael R. Pavley
11 W. 11th St. Apt. 32
Columbus, GA 31901

Matthew Phillips
4924 Soaring Springs Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89131

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

ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY



	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
5th	Tom Eppard Linda Erdmann	Eric Johnson Jim Swanson
12th	Mike Winslow Al Collins	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich
19th	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy

Ash Wednesday, 2/22, 7:00 pm

Tom Eppard
Linda Erdmann

26th	Eric Johnson Jim Swanson	Tom Eppard Linda Erdmann
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February 29, 7:00 pm

Eric Johnson
Jim Swanson

First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

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 :

**Judy Gyde
Herman Jeskey**

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:

**Matthew Ahrens
Family of Jack Allred
Jordyn Beckhusen
Jessie Blanchong
Melissa Boos
Rosie Burtch
Family of Don Cousino
Bernie Erdmann
Jerry Gears
Family of Phil Grivanos
Family of Eleanor Habegger
Pastor Brian Hodge Family
Sandy Kearney
Family of Dr. Richard Koop
Vivian Kuhlman
Sylvia Loston
Laurie Madrazo
George "Skip" McCullough
Joe Metzger
Family of Renee Allred Miller
Ava Morin
Ivan Myers
Charlie Ohlson
Sarah Pawlaczyk
Bishop Sanchez
Nicki Schlegel
Family of Jeff Schneider
Family of Steve Singlar
Tim Smith
Gary Taylor
Jodi Toth
Bob Webb
Candy Webster
Dorothy Welniak
Pat Whiteside
Terry Williams
Raetta Zeisler**

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



READERS NEEDED

If you would like to be part of the service at least one Sunday a month, we need volunteers to read the lessons at early and late services. Once you are on the schedule, the lessons are emailed or mailed to you (whichever you prefer) at least one week prior to when you will read. If this is something that you feel you could do, please contact Marion Fouty at 419-693-0940.

2012 ROSTERS FOR ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

New 2012 rosters are in the lounge on the table by the window near the library. These booklets include the officers of WELCA and Altar Guild, a calendar of events for the women of the church, ongoing mission project needs, and a list of all women's Bible study group members and meeting times.

BOARD OF MINISTRIES

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

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 2012/2013 school year. All children who will be age 3 by September 30, 2012 are eligible to attend. If you're interested and/or would like more information, please call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A SHOWER FOR THE DAUGHTER PROJECT

The Daughter Project, a faith-based, non-profit agency that helps girls recover from the abuses of human trafficking, will finally become operational this month. Its founder, Jeff Wilbarger, also is the brother-in-law of our secretary, Toni Wilbarger.

We at First St. John would like to help The Daughter Project (TDP) in its first months of operation by collecting items still needed for the program's initial start-up. To that end, we are having a shower on Saturday, March 10th from 10:00 am to noon in our lounge. Someone from TDP will be here to update us on the program and answer our questions. Refreshments will be provided.

Here is a detailed list of the items needed. Please bring new items, not used. TDP wants to give the girls a feeling of being special enough to deserve new things. For clothing, small and medium sizes are best. To donate, please bring items to the church office, or bring them with you if you plan to attend the shower. Thank you in advance.

- ◆ Art supplies & craft items (paint sets, easel, etc.)
- ◆ Books ("classics" - no vampire themes, please)
- ◆ Snow shovels
- ◆ Gardening supplies (gloves, hoses, spades, etc.)
- ◆ Gym bags
- ◆ Flip-flops
- ◆ Beach towels
- ◆ Underwear, Socks
- ◆ Pajamas
- ◆ Bathrobes & Slippers
- ◆ Sweatpants, sweatshirts
- ◆ Gift cards (anywhere you like to shop is where they like to shop)
- ◆ Gas cards (house mothers will use to drive the girls to appointments)
- ◆ African-American hair care products
- ◆ Non-perishable food items

They also need bigger ticket items that you could get together with a group to donate: a swing set (some of the girls are as young as 10) and a picnic table.

They are also registered at Bed Bath & Beyond and Kohl's. For more information on TDP, please visit their website at www.thedaughterproject.org

BY DESIGN . . .

"Don't be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God."
— 1 Peter 3:3

By Design, a group that allows time for moms to join together in fellowship, will continue with its next meeting on February 21st at 9:30 am in the lounge. By Design is for moms with children from newborns to age 12 or for anyone who thinks they could mentor moms of young children. Child care and breakfast will be provided.

The group meets monthly through May on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. We hope this endeavor will be rejuvenating, uplifting, fun, and enriching to all involved.

If you would like to attend or help with this group, contact Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222 or cedir@firststjohn.com OR Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480 or b.shellhammer@firststjohn.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Attention, men of First St. John! If you like going out to breakfast and enjoy fellowship with other Christian believers, then you are invited to join us at Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave. on Saturday, February 4th at 8:00 am. We have snowbirds in Florida, so there is plenty of room.

Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 if you need a ride. Also, check out our pictures on the church's website at www.firststjohn.com Join us!!

FROM THE C.E. DIRECTOR'S DESK

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

As we approach Valentine's Day, this Bible verse is very fitting. We have heard this read at weddings, and find it very moving, but how many of us really apply these simple "rules" to our daily lives? These "rules" can make a difference in our lives if we would just follow them. Read and be reminded of them daily. Copy and place them where you can see them and truly follow them. Allow love to live in your heart on a daily basis and see the light that the Lord will shine on your life!

The youth group will participate in a few mission projects over the next few months. Our next project will be making blankets to "Keep Toledo Warm." We are asking for donations of any size or color of fleece. If you can donate, please drop off your donations at the church office.

Souper Bowl of Caring starts on February 5 and will continue for 3 weeks. Remember to bring spare change and/or canned soup to be donated to Lutheran Social Services.

Save the date: Family Bowling Night 2011 was such a success that we will have our 2nd Annual Family Bowling Night on Sunday, March 4, from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. This event will kick off Lutheran Schools Week. This is a great way to join in fellowship with the families of the Dayschool and our church families. More details to come.

JAM Meets at 9:00 a.m.

- February 5 Making Valentines
- February 12 Delivering Valentines to Lutheran Home
- February 19 A Loving Heart
- February 26 Miracles of Jesus: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Some of our kindergartners share their thoughts on:

What does it mean to be loved by God?

His love is in my heart and helps me give to people. — *Brynli Grabowski*

Showing love to pets and being nice to them. — *Vincent Barton*

I can pray with my sister to Him and talk to Him and share how I feel with Him. — *Ellie Bill*

It means I'm happy. — *Alyson Walenzak*

He listens to my prayers. — *Grant Thiel*

It means we should pray to him at night. — *Zion Williams*

Being nice to others would make God happy. — *Paige Hornyak*

I feel really good that God made my mom, and she is special. — *Aiden Guthrie*

It means sharing love and toys with everyone in the whole world. — *Izzy Vriezelaar*

DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This scholarship helps members of First St. John who will attend college for the 2012/2013 school year. Money is supplied from proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members. Applications are in the church office. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30th to be considered.



No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything quite like it— What God has arranged for those who love him. But you've seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you. 1 Corinthians 2:9

WOW... this year is moving by quickly! And we have been busy! Together, with you, we have started a couple of new programs this year. Our Prayer Buddy program got off the ground in October. Many of you have been matched with individual kindergarten children and have been sending the children notes of encouragement, letting them know you are thinking of them and praying for them as they move through their first year of formal education. The goal is the eventual matching of a prayer buddy to all Dayschool children.

By Design, a time for fellowship among women, began Tuesday, January 17th. We will continue to meet in the lounge at 9:30 on the third Tuesday each month. A scrumptious breakfast is served, and children are cared for by some of our favorite former Dayschool teachers as well as some of you. Brochures with more information about this exciting venture have been sent home with the children. Please call Jamie or me if you want additional information. We hope to see many of you there.

Your help is needed in spreading the word about the quality education we provide at First St. John Dayschool. Enrollment for the 2012/2013 school year begins February 1 for the members of First St. John and those students currently enrolled. Registration opens to the public on Thursday, March 1. We will have an open house from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6 for those children considering joining us for the 2012/2013 year. Word of mouth has always been our best advertisement. Registration forms are available in both the church and Dayschool offices. Please share them with friends and neighbors!

I also want to share with you a few good reasons to choose First St. John Kindergarten and Preschool:

- Christian education
- Highly qualified teachers (We have two teachers per classroom, and I cannot begin to express how exceptional I feel they are. Please feel free to visit the class in operation and see for yourself.)
- Small class size (We are committed to keeping each of our kindergarten classrooms at a maximum of 18 children.)
- No overwhelming lunchrooms or playgrounds
- Affordable all day, every day kindergarten with the option of before and after care
- Well rounded, self-contained program

- ◆ Physical education
- ◆ Outdoor exploration and play
- ◆ Addresses Ohio Content Standards, along with meeting the needs for cognitive, physical, emotional, social, creative, and spiritual development
- Safe, loving, family environment. All who come in contact with the children are rooting for their success.
- Nutritious snacks and lunches provided daily in a stress-free environment
- Many opportunities for family involvement, sending a clear message to children that who they are and what they are learning is important
- Mixture of teacher-directed and child-directed instruction
 - ◆ One-on-one instruction
 - ◆ Small group instruction
 - ◆ Whole class instruction
 - ◆ Center time learning experiences
- Various teaching strategies and tailored methods and materials to accommodate the different learning styles of the children – Differentiated Instruction
 - ◆ Visual Learner – more likely remembers what is seen than what is heard
 - ◆ Auditory Learner – remembers best what is heard
 - ◆ Tactile Learner – remembers best that which they have touched or handled
 - ◆ Kinesthetic Learner – learning is best remembered when he moves as he is learning

Please considering helping us raise funds for the school! Our annual fundraiser with Club Choice products will get underway in mid-March. Pizza, desserts, candy, and more are for sale. 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 improve materials in our classrooms.

February is a month for sharing love, so we asked our kindergartners to tell us about God's love.

What does it mean to be loved by God?

He died on the cross for us. — Brooklyn Bosch

The Bible tells us he loves us. — Carter Baxter

He gave us snow to make a snowman.
— Josh Berry

FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—JANUARY 17, 2012

New President Keith Mullen brought the meeting to order and everyone ordered what turned out to be a delicious dinner. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. Keith requested that everyone tell a little something about themselves to help the new members get to know one another.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and a motion was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Lori Pfeiffer to accept them. The motion passed.

Board of Ed.- Lori Pfeiffer gave the report. She said they had a very successful Christmas program with the participation of the children being very high compared to recent years. They will have a program with the Red Cross coming up. The JAM kids will sing in March.

Elder report-Bill Nelson gave the report and said the elder schedules and partners had been put together for the upcoming year. Soon the Lenten season will begin and there will be a roster for that.

Finance Report- Lisa Anderson gave the financial report. The budget at the end of 2011 was balanced at year's end. The congregation did a good job to see that we ended on a positive balance. There will be a campaign coming up to help finance repairs that are badly needed at the church. A motion was made to accept the finance report. Gary Henningsen made the motion and Mike Winslow seconded it. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report- Jim Sommers gave the treasurer's report and also said the 2011 budget ended well.

Prop Mgmt-No report, but the group was thanked for creating a place to hang the Christmas wreaths in the basement of the church.

Youth Report-Jamie Blazeovich talked about mission ideas for the youth group. She is trying to link the 7-8 graders into the group as well. She spoke about the BY DESIGN group that has been started by her and Barb from the Dayschool. The first meeting went well with the hopes of more attending in the future.

Dayschool Report-BY DESIGN went well. Enrollment will begin with current families and members of the church on Feb 1st. There has been conversation by parents about the JAM program, and hopefully this will draw families to the church.

Pastor Report-Pastor gave the names of a family transferring out. The Wilson family is moving to Montana. A new person, Winnie Wohlgamuth, is transferring in from St. Luke's in Curtice.

Old Business-The 150th committee had extra money left from the year-long celebration, and they will transfer it to the capital improvement fund.

New Business-A question was asked about keeping old minutes. Suggestions were to have someone scan them and save them to disc or jump drives. A suggestion was made that from this point forward a year's worth of minutes would be saved both to disc and a jump drive for safekeeping.

Keith asked for adjournment. Kevin Ruedy made the motion to adjourn and Lori Pfeiffer seconded it. Motion passed. The council recited the Lord's Prayer before leaving.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Habegger

