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# First St. John Journal

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Volume 26, Issue 3

March, 2013

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**M**arch is the month we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's the day we celebrate the conquering of death by Jesus. The world wants to make Easter about the Easter bunny and Easter eggs, and Easter ham. If Easter is just about hams and bunnies, I'm staying home on Easter Sunday. I need the rest and you do, too. But if Easter is about Jesus' resurrection from the dead, if Easter is about eternal life for you and me, if Easter is the ultimate celebration of God's *power* and *love* for human beings like us, I'm going to be there—and so should you.

All are welcome to join us Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> as we gather to worship and celebrate what our God has done for us. You don't have to be "good" enough – you don't have to have a Bible degree. All you really need is a believing heart. You won't be alone, anyway. Lots of people will be there, just like you and me, ready to celebrate God's power and love. We hope you are one of them.

— *Pastor Blohm*



## WOMEN'S SPRING ASSEMBLY

The Toledo conference WELCA will hold a Spring Assembly, "Planting Seeds for the Future," on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Advent Lutheran Church, 6735 Sylvania Ave. in Sylvania. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch. If you'd like to attend, pick up a registration form in the church office. Deadline for registration is April 4th. For more information, contact Sue Kapff, conference representative, at 419-382-7904.

## RUTH CIRCLE NEWS

Dr. Dale Partin, son of Florence Partin, will give the lesson at our April 2nd meeting (11:00 am). Dr. Partin is a recently retired scientist who enjoys teaching in-depth lessons that bring Biblical passages to life. Don't miss it!



## CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!

We will move our clocks forward one hour (spring ahead!) on Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 a.m. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th.

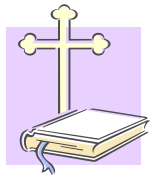
## LENTEN SERVICES CONTINUE

Join us for our mid-week Lenten services each Wednesday at noon in our Chapel and 7:00 pm in the Church. We'll meet every Wednesday, with our last service on March 20th.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Palm Sunday, March 24

7:45 am — Worship  
9:00 am — Sunday School  
10:15 am — Worship



### Maundy Thursday, March 28

12:00 pm — Worship  
7:00 pm — Worship

### Good Friday, March 29

12:00 pm — Worship  
7:00 pm — Worship

### Easter Sunday, March 31

8:00 am — Early Worship  
10:00 am — Late Worship  
11:30 am — Communion Following

## DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT



Beginning March 1st, the general public is invited to enroll their children for the 2013/2014 school year. All children who will be age 3 by August 1, 2013 are eligible to attend. First St. John members are encouraged to "check out" our school. If you're interested or would like more information, call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.

## ELDER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

	<u>7:45 am</u>	(Wed.)	<u>10:15 am</u>
3rd	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd		Jeff Smith Laurie Witt
6th		Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	
10th	Bill Nelson Linda Yenrick		Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy
13th		Bill Nelson Linda Yenrick	
17th	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt		Tom Eppard Al Collins
20th		Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy	
24th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich		Dick Haar Jeff Ladd

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

### EASTER

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>
31st	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy	Bill Nelson Linda Yenrick

## COMING SOON: ALL-DAUGHTER BANQUET

Join us for our All-Daughter Banquet on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 pm in the gym (elevator available). "Change of Seasons" from Perrysburg will provide us with a Style Show. Tickets will go on sale in April. Lots of fun for all, so mark your calendars!

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

- 11-30-12 *Payton Faith Bradford*, born to Justin and Jessica (Gerrard) Bradford.
- 2-11-13 *Brenah Rae Hugueley* born to Eric and Tamera (Morse) Hugueley

### Baptisms

- 2-10-13 *Charlotte Ruby Cromly*, born November 29, 2012 to Brian and Jennifer (Schuetz) Cromly. Sponsors are Tim and Casey Dues.
- 2-17-13 *Parker Valentino Mendoza*, born November 21, 2012 to Anthony Mendoza, Sr. and Nicole St. Clair. Sponsors are Sara Peters and Emily St. Clair.

### Marriages

None

### Deaths

- 2-4-13 Elaine Ackerman
- 2-16-13 Raylene Draeger
- 2-20-13 Edith Schuffenecker

### Transfers to First St. John

David Wilbarger from St. Luke's Lutheran in Curtice, OH.

### Transfers from First St. John

None

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
MARCH 23rd**

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ANNUAL CARD PARTY**



The 22nd annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 16th at noon. Tallies are \$8. For reservations call either the church office (419-691-7222) or Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. The elevator will be available.

If you can donate a 9x13 dessert to serve at least 12 people, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the clipboard in the lounge. We also need door prizes, either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. Boxes are in the lounge and Narthex for depositing these donations. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun day.

**FIRST ST. JOHN  
ALTAR GUILD  
EASTER FLOWER SALE**



It's time to buy flowers that will decorate the church at Easter. The price is \$8.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plant. An order form will be in the bulletin for the entire month of March, and someone will take orders in the Narthex on March 10th.

Please complete the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH 43605. Please make checks payable to: *First St. John Altar Guild*. Payment must accompany orders.

***The deadline for ordering is Wed., March 13th.***

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

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

Type of plant(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
*(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**REBECCA CIRCLE  
MEETING CHANGE**

In March, we will meet Saturday, March 16th at 11:30 am. Please mark your calendars. Thanks!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

Our next gathering is Saturday, March 2nd at 8:00 am at Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave. Come for breakfast, a short devotion and fellowship. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 to RSVP so he can arrange for seating. Also let him know if you need transportation.



**FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT!**

Join us Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. EVERYONE is invited for fun, food, and fellowship! Even if you can't bowl, come out to say hello, hang out, and have some fun. Cost is \$5 per person. Please fill out the slip below by March 20th and either mail it or drop it in the offering plate so we know how many lanes to reserve and how much food to have. You can also call the church at 419-691-7222 or email: [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

*Yes! I/we will attend Bowling Night on March 24<sup>th</sup>.*

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

# First St. John Prayer Chain

## Crisis Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers in urgent matters such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the chronic list after one month unless a prayer chain contact is notified:

**Family of Raylene Draeger**  
**Winnie Draper**  
**Chris Ensign**  
**Christopher Molnar**

## Chronic Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles and recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after three months unless a prayer chain contact has been notified:

**Family of Elaine Ackerman**  
**George Ackerman**  
**Jordyn Beckhusen**  
**Karen Bless**  
**Family of Pastor Harold Buenting**  
**Karen Burris**  
**Ron Curtis**  
**Dawn, Beth, & Tim (no last name given)**  
**Nick Elkington**  
**Family of Harry Hartford**  
**Family of Sally Schumaker Hartzell**  
**Bob & Debbie Hecklinger**  
**Grace Heninger**  
**Anne Hermiller**  
**Herman Jeskey**  
**Sophie LeDuc**  
**George "Skip" McCullough**  
**Jeanette Miller**  
**Charlie Ohlson**  
**Ed Roecher**  
**Bishop Sanchez**  
**Family of Sam Sharp**  
**Family of Ellie Symington**  
**Bruce Traver**  
**Family of Larry Vogtsberger**  
**Lee Wagner**  
**Candy Webster**  
**Terry Williams**

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

## *MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES*

Lily Georgeson  
543 Clarion Ave.  
Holland, OH 43528



Captain Lindsey Rowland  
1 Surf Way #113  
Monterey, CA 93940

## **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

*A1C Zachary Huss*  
3312 Sharon Dr.  
Moore, OK 73160

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

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

*Lindsey Rowland*  
1 Surf Way #113  
Monterey, CA 93940

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed in the next column-know if 4

## FROM JAMIE'S DESK

Did you know? Three Facts about Lent:

The word "Lent" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word *lengten*, which means "springtime," named so for the time of the year in which it occurs.

The liturgical color for Lent is purple, the color of repentance and sorrow for sin.

As someone has said: "Lent is the Church's springtime. Out of the darkness of sin's winter emerges a people, the Church--reborn through baptism into their Lord's death and resurrection from the grave."

Thank you to all who donated to our Souper Bowl of Caring.

On Sunday, March 24 we will hold an Easter Egg Hunt during the 9:00 a.m. hour. We are in need of filled plastic Easter Eggs. The eggs can be filled with candy, stickers, little erasers, etc. We will also need volunteers for this day. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Jamie in the church office or by email at [cedir@firststjohn.com](mailto:cedir@firststjohn.com)

**Save the date:** Family Bowling Night 2012 was such a success that we will have our 3rd Annual Family Bowling Night on Sunday, March 24 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. This event will include both the Dayschool and the church members. This is a great way to join in fellowship with both the church and our Dayschool families. See the article in this newsletter for more details and to RSVP.

### JAM Schedule:

March	3		Preparing for Easter – Death on the Cross
	10		Preparing for Easter – Empty Tomb
	17	Blood Drive Speaker	A Loving Heart
	24	Palm Sunday	Easter Egg Hunt
	31	Easter Sunday	NO JAM
April	7	Break	NO JAM

## HEARD AT DAYSCHOOL



Miss Dawn, kindergarten assistant, was reading the Bible to a couple of her students. She asked them which Bible story they wanted to hear, and they said they wanted to hear about Jesus' death. She was reading them the story, and when she got to the part where Jesus cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" she started to choke up. That's when little Caden touched Miss Dawn's shoulder and said, "That's okay, Miss Dawn. It has a happy ending, remember?"

Thank you to all our Dayschool teachers who teach our children about Jesus.

### ***Is This Newsletter Mailed To Your Home? If So, Your Response Is Needed!***

Due to new postal regulations, prices for mailing the newsletter via regular USPS have gone up another \$12 - \$15 per month. If you use email, please consider having the church newsletter emailed to you to help us cut back on costs. Please fill out the information below and mail it to the church office, call Toni at 419-691-7222 OR (if possible) contact her [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com) Please sign your name somewhere on this slip if you are mailing it to the church office. Thank you.

- I do not have email. Please continue to send a hard copy of the newsletter to my home.
- I do not have email. I will pick up a copy of the newsletter here at church.
- Please add me to the email distribution list. Here is my email address (please write clearly):
- 
- The following family members do not read the newsletter. Discontinue their delivery:
-

## DAY SCHOOL NEWS

*“This is why the fulfillment of God’s promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God’s promise arrives as pure gift. That’s the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that’s reading the story backward. He is our faith father.”*

*Romans 4:16*

Getting ready for Easter is a favorite time of year at the Dayschool. We have told the children a great deal about Jesus, and we are now able to listen to them tell us the good news as we sit around the cross during our Easter celebrations. Out of the mouths of babes we hear how much He loves us, and all the adults present are awed by the children’s ability to share their faith. Our year has gone quickly, and watching them grow in their spirit, brain, and body is so joyful and such a blessing to all involved.

Attention all Prayer Buddies: **SAVE THE DATE** Sunday, May 19th. A service recognizing our kindergarten children and their successful completion of the school year will take place that day. Following the service the children will be introduced to their prayer buddy. An exciting day for all involved! A parent called me a while back to say it brings tears to her eyes to know that someone is praying for her child every day. Powerful words! He tells us over and over that prayer is the best thing we can do for each other, so thank you for lifting these children and their families up to Him. You are a witness to many!

We are expecting a great turnout at our first annual Mom 2 Mom sale. This fundraiser will support two ministries of the congregation, the Dayschool and By Design (a gathering of young women that occurs twice monthly to discuss Christ as our foundation for living). This sale is a great way to help the community find reasonably priced items for their young children, help moms (and grandmas) make a little money by cleaning out their homes of unneeded items, and raise some funds for ministry! We are excited and prayerful that all goes well.

An Open House for the community to see our school and all we have to offer will be Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00- 8:00pm.

Registrations from children already enrolled and children of the congregation have been coming in

steadily. Please help us spread the word about our school and the registration process. My personal prayer is we have a strong enrollment by June. If anyone is able to hang a flyer at their workplace similar to the one hanging at the back and front entrances of the educational building, please let me know. Also, if you know anyone who is looking for a quality Christian school, please encourage them to come, see, and experience the awesome program we offer. Many of you have already sent families our way and we appreciate it. Word of mouth has always been the best advertisement for the Dayschool.

We will once again join with the congregation for a bowling outing on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. If you will attend this event, please take the opportunity to reach out and make a connection with one of the families from the Dayschool.

May God continue to guide and bless us all.

In Him,  
Barb Shellhammer



### **WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE**

This scholarship helps members of First St. John attending college for the 2013/2014 school year. Scholarship applications are available in the church office. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30th to be considered.

### **“DINNER WITH FRIENDS”**

Our next dinner will be Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Menu: corned beef and cabbage (smoked sausage for those who do not like corned beef), roll, and dessert. If you plan to attend, please fill out the slip below and return it to the church office or in the offering plate so we know how many to plan for. Join us!

*Yes, I will attend Dinner With Friends  
on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***MEMORIALS***

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### **MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of **Phyllis Coontz** by Donna Cedoz, Dianne & Karl Busson, Bonnie Varga.

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Richard & Lola Crouse, Carlene Trost, Julie Loucks, Betty TenEyck, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Shirley Helmke and family, Karen Frey, Dean & Kris Ackerman, Jeff & Cindy Moritz, Norman Schumaker, Elaine Gladieux, Terry & Brenda Weidner, Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Durand Wayland, Inc., Elizabeth Hirzel, Paul & Vivian Kuhlman, William & Deb Rowland, Julius & Marlene Hallar, Janine Contat, Tom & Janet Eppard, Gary & Linda Kusian, Kathleen Koehn, Norma Ridener, Marcella Eaton, William & Victoria Applebaum, Tom & LuAnn Schuffenecker, Marvin & Carol Keller, Chuck & Jane Neal, Cliff & Madonna Bury, Kevin & Kristie Ruedy, Don & Sarianne Petroff, Donna Koester, Jeff & Eileen Creque, Catherine Lannon, Randy & Peggy Koch, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Dave & Amy Ackerman, Bill & Donna Nelson and family, Kim Gahler and family, Kurt & Laura Miller, John & Karen Rowley, Jim & Martha Vogelbacher, Margene Spring, Pat Shaffer, Judy & Rick Lepiarz, Gloria Ross, Lester & Mary Meier, Dorothy Laney, Jennifer St. John and family, Sandy Blausey, Dave & Beverly Hoffman, Noel & Marti Heisler, John & Carol Schwegler, John & Mary Ann Hotz, Joan Probasco, Jim & Evalyn Witty, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Dan & Janet Peacock, John Jenkins, Roy & Pauline Moritz, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Dick & Jan Livingston; Tom, Sandy & Kevin Garverick, Martha Meyers, Clara Breese, Karen Radsiek, Olga Zimmerman, Phil & Mary Ann Cervantes.

In honor of **Dick & Raylene Draeger's** 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Marjorie Kuhlman.

In memory of **Pastor Buenting** by Gary & Linda Kusian.

In memory of **Larry Vogtsberger** by Gary & Linda Kusian.

### **ALTAR GUILD**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Louise & Jim Sommers, The Mermer Family, Jean DeWitt.

In memory of **Phyllis Cedoz Coontz** by Gary & Linda Kusian.

### **CURRENT FUND**

In memory of **Janette Harmon's** birthday by

Donald & Mary St. John.

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Bill & Ginny Wegman.

### **AIR CONDITIONING FUND**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Duane & Mary K. Hubaker, Esther Bell, Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of **Eleanor Symington** by Marilyn Cashen.

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

### **BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### **QUILTERS**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Penny DeWitt.

### **DAYSCHOOL ACKERMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Gary & Joanne Henningsen, Christian Fellowship Church, Triple "S" Smith Farms, Inc., David & Beth Hodges, Richard & Brenda DeLamatre, David & Diane Habegger, Mardel Haslinger, Barbara Carr, Noel & Donna Graham, Donna Henderson, Don & Karen Holmes, Don & Janice Kulczak, Pastor & Ilean Labuhn, Glenn & Margaret Koester, Dolly Hamilton, Bill & Terri Hamilton, Jan & Donna Koenker, The Ondrus Family, Darlene & Larry Paul.

### **HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### **CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of **Elaine Ackerman** by Nancy Gallaher, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Bill Fischhaber, Ruth Cummerow, Jim & Betty Lou Miller, Dennis & Lisa Pavley, Dan, Joyce, Jean & Patrick Martin, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Barbara Uhler.

In memory of **Pastor Buenting** by Darlene Eggert.

## *LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP*

January 8, 2013

Epiphany, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the Northwestern Ohio Synod,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in whom we live and move and have our being.

As we begin this new year, I am filled with deep gratitude. I want to share something of that with you. At the heart of this gratitude is the recent remembrance of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and the very good news of God's grace and mercy that have come to us through the in-breaking reign of God in Christ Jesus. That good news shapes everything else we may see and experience. I thank God for all of you who have reminded me and the synod staff of that good news through your cards, e-mails, and personal words in the past weeks. I am deeply grateful.

I am deeply grateful for the gift of a sabbatical that the Northwestern Ohio Synod provided me during the summer. Frankly, the past several years have been a great challenge. At times it has been difficult for me to see a hope-filled future. Given the recent stresses in the life of the synod and changes in synodical structure, I was not sure that it was the right time for a sabbatical. Nevertheless, synod leadership and staff encouraged me to take it. After one week, the synod staff no longer returned my e-mails and I "got the message." It proved to be an important time for rest, prayer, reading, and for re-connecting with my family and a significant mentor. In short, it was a time of renewal. I am grateful for the staff whose good work enabled me to "check out" while knowing that the synod was in good hands.

During the time of the sabbatical, I received an invitation from the Dodoma Diocese to attend the consecration of Amon Kinyunyu as bishop of the Dodoma Diocese. Again, given the recent sabbatical and what appeared to be insufficient preparation time as well as the upcoming retirements of Assistants to the Bishop, Dennis Maurer and Tom Schutt, I was not inclined to accept the invitation. Synod leadership and staff again encouraged me to attend. The result was an incredible trip to our Companion Churches in Serbia and Tanzania. During the course of that trip, I learned more about what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ across the globe. The relationships with these churches have matured throughout the years. Many of the individuals and congregations of this synod can testify concerning the gift of these connections. I will share more of that story in the coming months. Once again I found myself deeply grateful for these relationships and for all those, including staff, whose good work made this trip a possibility.

As I write this, I have just returned from the Bishops' Academy, an ongoing education event that was hosted in Puerto Rico by the Caribbean Synod and Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montanez. For years the bishop has urged us to come, indicating that it would mean a great deal to the Latino people of his synod if we were to walk with them, to learn about the people and church of that place and to join with them in celebrating the major "Festival of Three Kings." During this trip I learned more about another culture and another part of the Body of Christ as I experienced what it means to worship in something other than in one's own language. I found myself wondering about what it might mean for this synod to reach out to the growing Latino community in Northwestern Ohio in an intentional manner. Some of our congregations are beginning to lead us in that direction. For this too I am most grateful.

As this new year begins, I find myself renewed and filled with hope for our life together in this synod. During the past months I have learned that the church in every place and time has its unique gifts and challenges. Sin is always a present reality. Yet in the midst of it all, we celebrate God's faithfulness in Christ and the manner in which the Holy Spirit is continually sustaining and breathing new life in the church—even and particularly in the midst of pain, struggle, and dying. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it." That also is true for the Northwestern Ohio Synod.

Even as we bid farewell to one synodical structure, we welcome the increased role of deans, call process facilitators, and those pastors and other everyday Christians who have gifts at helping us move through situations of conflict to mission.

*(continued on the next page)*



## LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP

(continued from previous page)

I look forward to congregations and leaders in this synod increasingly sharing "best practices" with respect to how we might more strongly embrace the mission and ministry to which we are called. I am grateful for those congregations who are embracing the synodical mission initiative, "Good News + Amen!" I am convinced by the grace of God that this will prove an excellent resource with respect to helping us again know the Gospel, trust the Gospel, and respond to the Gospel in ways that re-shape our lives, the ministries offered through our congregations, this synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Might this be just the time for us to own in a new way what it means to be "one in Christ", walking together as synod? For this possibility, I am grateful and hopeful.

As I begin this new year with you, it is not hard to echo Paul's words, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3-6)

As we enter a new year, please know my gratitude for you and for the One who has called us together in this time and place.

Living together with you in the light of Christ,



Bishop Marcus C. Lohrmann

### COUNCIL MINUTES

(continued from page 10)

**Pastor's Report (continued)** - The Synod is being held at BGSU on May 17 & 18 and volunteers are needed to attend as delegates. First St. John will pay for registration fees.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - Bill Nelson let everyone know that Thrivent will be voting soon to change from serving Lutherans only to all Christians being served.

Meeting motioned to be adjourned by Lori Pfeiffer, seconded by Karen Holmes. Motion carried. Closing was led by Pastor by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Folk  
Recording Secretary

### CEMETERY CLEAN UP NOTICE



With Easter quickly nearing, please take time to remove older decorations and grave blankets, especially those from Christmas. Thanks in advance for your help.

### MEMORIALS

(continued from page 7)

#### ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of Elaine Ackerman by Bonnie Varga.

#### CHOIR FUND

In memory of Elaine Ackerman by Jeanette Dotson, Ron & Joanne Koch, Ruth Ziethlow.

#### BELL CHOIR

In memory of Elaine Ackerman by Don & Karen Johnson, Barb & Frank Meyers, Sue Ann Rogers.

#### DEBT FUND

In memory of Elaine Ackerman by Ada Kreger, Russ & Chris Hunsaker.

**FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES—February 19, 2013**

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Pastor Blohm opened the meeting with prayer. President Keith Mullen called the meeting to order where he acknowledged Lynn Folk taking over the secretary position. Attendance was taken. Minutes from the January meeting were read. Lori Pfeiffer motioned we accept the minutes as read. Karen Holmes seconded, motion carried.

**Christian Education Report** - Jamie Blazeovich reported that the Souper Bowl of Caring is still going on with the JAM students having 114 cans and the congregation having 136. Shopping carts were donated for this event from Krogers and Keith picked it up for the group.

The JAM students also made and delivered Valentines to the Lutheran Homes where the kids as well as the residents enjoyed the interaction.

The older students (grades 7-12) held a Survivor Challenge with several events including eating challenges, obstacle course and creating posters and names for their teams. Future events will include a puppet show with Darlene Paul and an Easter Egg Hunt on March 24. This event will be held inside if we have bad weather. Eggs to fill will be needed. March 24 is also a joint bowling outing with the Day School.

On April 30 there will be a blood drive at the Lutheran Home.

The Dayschool and By Design Mom to Mom Sale is coming up in March. This is a big garage sale with kids' items with a raffle and other vendors. Help will be needed on Friday for set up as well as on Saturday to assist with large items and loading cars.

Postcards to advertise our Easter Services came out to 250 @\$39 and can be sent to our own parishioners who may not have come in a while, or at all. We would need about 1000 plus postage if we want all to have one, even if out of state. Karen Holmes reported the group is trying to brainstorm more ideas with the Dayschool, so more activities between JAM and the school can happen. Plans for next year include new Sunday School teachers and catechism teachers. The confirmands this year have been introduced to all the organizations within the

church...bell choir, praise singers, quilters etc. They are encouraged to bring their friends into FSJ.

**Elders Report** - Bill Nelson reported that, once again, he has been selected as chairman for the elders. Lenten services coverage and what duties were required were discussed along with a wireless mic tutorial. There is a wedding coming up next month with 5 total for the year.

**Property Mgmt.** - Larry Paul said toilets and windows were taken care of in January/February and a new floor was put in a Dayschool room, thanks to Bill Caldwell. The evergreen tree was removed out front and stump removal is next in the spring (also noted there is a stump near the garage that needs removed). Approximately \$25 a stump from Kusians.

**Treasurer/Finance Report** - Chris Hunsaker was appointed as chairwoman of the finance committee. Lisa Anderson reported that insurance deductibles were changed from \$500 to \$1000, which will save the church money. Audits were done by Julie Gallaher and Chris Hunsaker, all balanced out. A copy of the treasurers report can be found in the secretary's notebook. Lori Pfeiffer motioned we accept the report, Larry Paul seconded, motion carried.

**Dayschool Report** – Open House will be March 5 with open enrollment to follow. A discount is given to parishioners and is checked by Toni. Kindergarten information night is Thursday, March 14. The Dayschool will once again be going green...reusable plates and silverware will be purchased for use at lunch and snack time. Finances for the Dayschool were also reported. A copy can be found with the secretary's book. A change in the payment system for the Dayschool will be implemented this fall. New system will be taken directly from parents' checking accounts.

**Pastor's Report** - We have 11 confirmands this year! A letter of transfer to First St. John for David Wilbarger from St. Luke's Lutheran Church was presented. Bill Nelson motioned we accept this transfer, Larry Paul seconded, motioned carried.