



# First St. John Journal



Volume 26, Issue 10

October, 2013

**T**he autumn season has arrived. If you are like me, it seems difficult to believe how quickly it has come upon us. Yet, no matter the degree of initial surprise, we eventually become comfortable with the changing seasons. No doubt you have heard the adage: “The only things certain in life are taxes and death.” After further consideration perhaps we should add “change” to this piece of wisdom. Change— it can be unwanted, unexpected, and difficult, but it is unavoidable. Life is full of change.

This is a time of change for First St. John Lutheran. Just as seasonal changes oblige us to make adjustments in our clothing (short sleeves to long, digging out the sweaters, coats, gloves, etc.), so too this period in the life and ministry of First St. John will ask folks to make adjustments.

No matter what life brings our way, no matter the changes or adjustments, as disciples of Jesus Christ the gift of our faith and the promises of our Lord upon which our faith is founded provide us the resources to move forward. Remember the declaration from Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever.” As the Apostle Paul discovered for his own life, “. . . straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:113b). And the promise of Jesus: “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev. 1:8).

I am among you as your Interim Pastor, to walk with you during this time of transition— to uphold the ministry of Word and Sacrament, to teach and preach, to provide pastoral care and guidance, and to join with you to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” (Eph. 4:12). Please feel free to talk with me, share questions and concerns and, above all, hold me in your prayers as I will hold you in my own prayers.

May God’s richest blessings be yours now and always. — *Pastor Jerry Rayl*

## **FREE GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT**



First St John is hosting a free gospel concert for all ages on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm featuring Dave Anderson and Roger Walck. A soup and salad dinner precedes the concert from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Dave and Roger’s concerts include a mix of contemporary and traditional Christian music, hymns, gospel, praise & worship and children songs. Audiences are invited to sing along. They also share their personal experiences and their walk with God.

A freewill offering will be taken with all proceeds going to Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat in Phoenix, which provides specialized counseling for burned out church workers, pastors and their spouses.

## **NEW OPPORTUNITY!!**



If you’re looking for a new and unique way to give back to the church community, we’ve got a great experience for you! My cousin Jeff Ladd and I started visiting and giving communion to a few of our homebound members.

This amazing opportunity allows us to hear their great spiritual stories, their trials, and how God has helped them on their journey. This is a small, once-a-week commitment that Jeff and I really enjoy. We offer communion and moral support. Being able to share God’s love with those who cannot leave their home is very rewarding.

If you have a church friend, talk to them and see if they will sign up with you for this amazing experience. This is a great way to meet new people and grow in your faith. We look forward to building our E-LOG (Eternal Life on the Go) team with you.

-- *LuAnn Spoerl*

### *Meet Our Interim Pastor*

Pastor Jerald (Jerry) Rayl lives in Wauseon, OH with his wife, Sheryl. They have two sons: Stephen living in the San Francisco area, and Michael living in Wauseon. They have two basset hounds named Toby and Baxter.

Pastor Rayl was born and raised in Columbus, OH where he graduated from Northland High School in 1969. He received his BA from Capital University (1973) and a Masters of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary (1977), both in Columbus. Ordained in 1977, he served at Christ Lutheran in Baltimore, MD, Trinity Lutheran in Maysville, KY, St. Paul Lutheran in Augusta, KY, and Providence Lutheran in Brookville, OH. He was senior pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran in Warren, OH and recently pastor of Christ Lutheran in Continental, OH. For 9 years he was chaplain and development director for Wernle Children's Home in Richmond, IN; and for over 12 years was director of development and public relations for Filling Homes in Napoleon, OH.

Pastor Rayl currently serves on the NW Ohio Synod Faithful Response Table (stewardship committee) and the Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

### ALTAR GUILD NEWS



We are looking for new members for next year. If you take pride in your church and would be interested in keeping the sanctuary looking beautiful, or if you would like to learn more about Altar Guild, please contact June Might at 419-662-8024.

Thank you VERY MUCH to everyone who donated produce and decorations to help make our church beautiful for Harvest Festival on September 15th. We very much appreciate your generosity.

Our October meeting will be Monday, October 7th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

### *MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP*

Our next meeting is Sat., October 5th at 8:00 am at Bob Evans on Navarre. Come and meet our new interim pastor, Jerry Rayl. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 for more information or if you need a ride.

### ELDERS FOR OCTOBER

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
6th	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich
13th	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy
20th	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt	Tom Eppard Al Collins
27th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd



### MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Justin & Jessica Bradford  
6212 Falcon Chase Dr.  
Westerville, OH 43082  
(Haileigh, Payton)

Jackie & Tina Curtis  
427 Utah St.  
Toledo, OH 43605

Deborah Spencer  
4508 Pickle Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43616

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### *ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS*

To keep our office records up-to-date, 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. Or email us: office@firststjohn

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Chicken & Ham Dinner

Put us on your calendar for Saturday, November 2nd—the biggest church event of the year! Delicious meals of chicken, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, and homemade desserts will be served from 4:00-7:00 pm. This is a great community event, and it's not just for members. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, & coworkers—they'll be glad you did!!!

Tickets will be available soon. You may buy tickets from the church office or from circle members, or call Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506, Joanne Crandall at 419-693-2081 or Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225. Tickets will go on sale after services in the lounge and narthex on October 20th and 27th. And, yes, you can buy them at the door.

### Ticket Prices:

Adults	\$9.00
Children 3-12 yrs	\$4.00
Children 2 yrs & under	Free (still need ticket)

The October bulletins will have a sign up sheet with ways you can help us make this dinner a success. If you receive this newsletter by email, a sign-up sheet will be included as a separate attachment.

### Needed: Crafters & Bake Sale Items

We need baked goods to be sold during the Craft Sale at the Chicken and Ham Dinner on November 2nd. If you can donate baked goods or are interested in having your own craft table, please contact Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506 or Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719.



## HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS, AND BOOTS NEEDED

WELCA will collect hats, mittens, socks, and boots for local children during October. Hat and mitten sizes 0-5 will go to the Toledo Day Nursery, and sizes 6-Adult will go to Riverside School and Raymer School. We also will collect toddler and preschool size socks and boots. You can place your donations in the specially marked boxes in the Narthex and/or in the lounge. Thanks for your help.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### Births

9-4-13 *Anna Mabel Clair*, born to Kyle and Sabrene (El Helou) Clair.

### Baptisms

9-7-13 *Mariah Marie Cannings*, born January 12, 2013 to Michael Cannings and Jackie Henninger. Sponsors are Thomas Cornelison, Patricia Dombrowski, and Mikayla Henninger.

9-8-13 *Marlee Rose Masserant*, born August 13, 2013 to Shane and Abbie (Skorupa) Masserant. Sponsors are Jared Masserant and Chelsea Skorupa.

### Marriages

9-21-13 Ashley Mermer and Eric Frye

### Deaths

9-24-13 John Deuble

### Transfers to First St. John

None

### Transfers from First St. John

Paul, Anna, Noah, and Evan Cygnor to St. John Lutheran in Stony Ridge, OH.

Rick and Connie Gross to St. Luke's Lutheran in Curtice, OH.

Donna Koester to St. Mark Lutheran in Toledo.

## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

On Sunday, November 3rd we'll observe All Saints Day. We will read the names of our church family who passed away during the last year (since the first Sunday in November of 2012).

We'll already have the names of church members who died from November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013. If the person to be remembered either was not a member or was a member who passed away prior to November 2012, please call the church office or sign the remembrance book that will be in the Narthex so their names will be read. Thank you.

## COUNCIL MINUTES

*(continued from page 10)*

**Pastor's Report (continued)** - Pastor Cindy is seeking volunteers and location for this. Prequalified families will come once every three months. A motion was made to endorse the concept of the Personal Needs Ministry - motion we look further into this project, Mike Folk motioned we endorse this and Lori Pfeifer seconded.

Martin Luther on Nevada has a Feed Your Neighbor pantry, but they are only open two Saturdays a month. They have the food to give away, but not the people to come get it. Could we put this information in our bulletin?

We thanked Pastor Cindy for her service over the last few months.

**Old Business** - There is a link on our web page to donate to church via a Thrivent link. This allows you to donate to any church fund. An announcement about this will be in the bulletin.

Property Management asked for a room to use for storing documents and tools and for the counters to use on Mondays. They are requesting to use the old room downstairs until June, when a new room will be open. This room is currently used as a storage area. Another area was suggested, and Mike Folk requested that the School Board put a scope together as to where we have room.

**New Business** - Pastor Blohm was set up for insurance, housing allowance, and salary at his new church, but the new church changed their minds. Now \$1,700 is needed to help pay for his insurance until another position can be found for him. Jeff Ladd motioned we pay this amount, Laurie Witt seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting motioned to be adjourned by Tom Eppard. This was seconded by Jeff Smith. The motion carried. Closing was led by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Folk  
Council Secretary

## GIVING IS SO EASY!!!

This fall, please consider signing up for electronic giving. This is a way to enhance and automate your regular offering and not have to think about it. Electronic giving is now even more convenient and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. It is so easy...visit the church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com) and look for the donation link at the bottom of the homepage. It is very simple to fill out. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Lisa Anderson or Chris Hunsaker.

First St. John relies on the financial support of the congregation, and electronic giving offers an EASY way to give on a consistent basis. Thanks.

## BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Did someone say  
"Christmas?!" Say it ain't so!

It is time to start collecting for Operation Christmas Child, so get those shoeboxes ready. Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Empty shoe boxes are available in the JAM room under the Christmas tree and also in the lounge.

If you receive this newsletter by email, a packing label sheet is attached. If you receive it via hard copy, packing label sheets will be in the office and the lounge. Once filled, please return the shoeboxes to the JAM Christmas tree or the church office.

**NOTE:** Donations of empty shoeboxes are needed. Please bring to the JAM room or the church office.

The final date for turning in the boxes will be Sunday, November 17th. If you have questions, please call Deb Ladd at 419-250-1460. Thanks!

## PRAYER CHAIN LIST

(As of September 25, 2013)

### 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 the 1st month unless we're contacted about special circumstances:*

**Ann Sherman Connor  
Family of Mary Lou Davis  
Family of John Deuble  
Normal Manteuffel  
Demetra Pender  
Gordon Thayer  
Phyllis Wagner**

### 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:*

**George Ackerman  
Jordyn Beckhusen  
Rose Belville  
Gavin Boggs  
Karen Burris  
Baby Camille  
Kathy Church  
Anna Clair  
Jackie Curtis  
Jan Eppard  
Christy Frankforther  
Herb Frey  
Lily Georgeson  
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger  
Grace Heninger  
Margie Heninger  
Matt Jenkins  
Emily Kruse  
Pastor Labuhn  
Sophie LeDuc  
George "Skip" McCullough  
Jeanette Miller  
Mike Miller  
Christopher Molnar  
Zach Mossbarger  
Charlie Ohllson  
Cindy Roecker  
Hilda Saelzler  
Brenda Seimet  
June Smarkel  
Candy Webster**

**Terry Williams  
Joe Zielinski**

Please check the list and notify any prayer chain contact if a name can be removed.

### Prayer Chain Contacts

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com  
Lynn Folk 691-3410 Donna Koehn 693-5030  
Ada Kreger 693-1549 Gloria Ross 836-7166

### **REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND**



Please remember our older members and family who cannot attend church. Some have family who visit, but others do not. Below is a list of our homebound members who may enjoy a card, phone call, or visit. If you need phone numbers or addresses, call the church office (419-691-7222). Take a moment out of your day to brighten someone else's. Thanks.

**Frank & Joyce Beavers  
Doris Bober  
Russell Bodette Sr.  
Virginia Brandeberry  
Donna Cedoz  
Doris Danekind  
Peg Deuble  
Darlene Eggert  
Edie Felhaber  
Phyllis Frey  
Lily Georgeson  
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger  
Margie Heninger  
Don Higley  
Virginia Hoffman  
Margaret Koester  
Dorothy Kreszowski  
Paul Kuhlman  
Dorothy Laney  
Norma Manteuffel  
Betty Morse  
Hilda Saelzler  
Lolita "Lee" Schwiefert  
Brenda Seimet  
Forrest Ulrich  
Phyliss Wagner  
Bill & Ginny Wegman**

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## THANK YOU!!

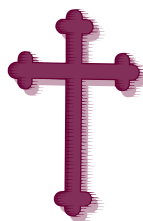
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A big THANK YOU to all who attended and/or helped with the Commemorative Garden & Dickey stone dedication on September 14th. Pastor Rayl, Floyd Hagedorn and members of the Christ Dunberger American Legion Post put on a wonderful program, and God provided a beautiful morning for approximately 85 attendees. Below is a list of all those who contributed to the Paver Project. **NOTE:** We will continue to accept orders for pavers as long as there are bricks available, so it's still not too late to order.

Jeanette Dotson  
Floyd Hagedorn  
Lee Frazier  
Jim & Janet Fox  
Martha Hecklinger  
Esther Bell  
Mary Ellen Miller  
Patricia Buenting  
Ernie & Marge Bollinger  
Rick & Cathy Hecklinger  
Fred & Wanda Rice  
Jerry & Ginny Nissen  
Dutch & Janet Morrison  
Jay Swanson  
Marvin & Carol Keller  
Del & Darlene Ackerman  
Chuck & Jane Neal  
Jay & Patti Emch  
Joanne Crandall  
Norm & Phyllis Schuffenecker  
Jim & Sandy Hecklinger  
Dean Stroh  
Donna Koester  
Joyce & Dan Martin  
Lee Wagner  
Marilyn Cashen  
Jeff & June Might  
Greg & Janine Contat  
Elaine Gladieux  
Verlene Schweizer  
Terry & Jane Schuetz  
Norm Schumaker  
Lynn Kocha  
Bill & Donna Nelson  
Marilyn White  
Mike & Elaine Cutcher  
Ada Kreger  
Nancy Gallaher  
Jim & Julie Swanson  
Don & Karen Holmes

Elinor Ehram Family  
Phyllis Sabin  
William Fischhaber  
Russ & Chris Hunsaker  
Bob & Debra Hecklinger  
Gary & Joanne Henningsen  
Gary & Linda Kusian  
Raj & Linda Joshi  
Jim & Louise Sommers  
William & Julie Moritz  
Gene Hagedorn  
Gene & Ruth Price  
Joyce Yard  
Bill & Cathy Caldwell  
Ken & Joyce Villhauer  
Paul & Marybeth Mullen  
Keith & Lisa Mullen  
Pastor Jerald Rayl  
Toni Wilbarger  
Felzer-Urban Monument Co.  
Jeff Moritz, Landscape Design  
G. L. Henningsen  
Christ Dunberger American Legion Post



### MEMORIALS

#### CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Wayne Lytle by Terry & Jane Schuetz.

#### ALTAR GUILD

In honor of Pastor Robert Blohm, Jr. by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

#### CHOIR FUND

In memory of Lola Harder by Dick & Lola Crouse.

#### HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In honor of Pastor Robert Blohm, Jr. by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### ***NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED***

Church Council is seeking volunteers to serve on council for 2014. Positions include elders, finance committee, property management, and Sunday School Board. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church office.

## **FROM JAMIE'S DESK**

### **Mark 4:20**

*"Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."*

### **Good Soil**

In the parable of the soils Jesus tells of different types of people who hear the gospel. Only some people hear the word of God and accept it and will bear fruit as a result of this.

As a seed reaches maturity, it produces a great harvest in light of what was invested. One seed does not return one seed, it returns dozens of tomatoes or years of apple harvesting.

Bearing fruit takes time, and some of us will take longer to reach maturity than others. Some Christians go through years of backsliding after their initial profession of faith before they get their life together. Others see a rapid change in their life.

Christians are going to have different levels of production. God has gifted each person differently, and we should not expect each Christian to do the same things. Some people are going to be the equivalent of the crop that is thirty times what was sown, while others are going to be like the crop that is sixty or a hundred times what was sown.

We are called to bear fruit. The amount that is produced depends on our maturity and how we are gifted. We have control only over our own maturity. Produce fruit and strive for maturity. Don't worry about the results. God is looking for fruit, not the numbers.

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### **Catechism: Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **October Schedule**

### **7th Grade:**

6	<b>Introduction</b>	Martin Luther and the Catechism
13	<b>Ten Commandments</b>	God's Will Made Known
20		Praise Singers
27		Faith Testimony

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

6	<b>The Creed</b>	The Second Article
13		Faith Testimony Working Class
20	<b>The Creed</b>	The Third Article
27		Faith Testimony

### **Jesus and Me: Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

### **JAM Schedule:**

Oct.	6		Living a Fruitful Life - Don't Waste Your Life
	13		Living a Fruitful Life - Heavenly Treasures
	20		Living a Fruitful Life - Count Your Blessings
	27		Attributes of God – God is Good

### **JAM Preschool Schedule:**

Oct.	6		Who is Jesus – Jesus is the Way
	13		God Living – Sharing Your Blessings
	20		God Living – Let's Go to Church
	27		God Living – Teach Me About God

### **Volunteers:**

We are always looking for volunteers for JAM. Whether you have 10 minutes or can volunteer for the whole hour, we can definitely use your God-given hands and talents. It is also a great way to get involved and meet other parents, like you! If you are interested, please contact Jamie at the information at the end of this article.

**FROM JAMIE'S DESK**  
(continued from previous page)

**Upcoming Activities:**



**Trunk or Treat**  
**Sunday, October 20, 2013**  
**2PM-4PM**

In the parking lot behind the church.  
Come out for fellowship, games, food and of course  
CANDY!

***What is Trunk or Treat?***

A safe, fun-filled family afternoon for children through 6th grade. Children and families will walk around to cars and be greeted by FSJ volunteers with their trunks open handing out candy. Cars will be decorated, and volunteers will wear costumes. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and for us to embrace our new students plus their families in both the Sunday School and the Dayschool.

To make this event a success, we will need lots of volunteers. To volunteer, please use the registration form attached to this newsletter email or contact Jamie (see below).

**Contact information for Jamie Blazevich:**  
**419-691-7222 or [cedir@firststjohn.com](mailto:cedir@firststjohn.com)**

***EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE***

Toni will be on vacation week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. Please have all announcements for the October 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> bulletins turned in to the office by Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

***A MESSAGE FROM  
PASTOR CINDY***

Hello First St. John folks!

I just want to thank everyone of you for inviting me to serve with you this past four months as one of your pastors. I have been truly blessed to spend time with you during worship and to be a pastoral presence among you during the weekdays. I will always be grateful to God for this experience and for all the friendly people I have enjoyed being with so very much.

You are a precious congregation with a phenomenal Dayschool and have many gifts to share with God's Kingdom. My prayers are with you all as you embark on the next chapter of First St. John's ministry in God's world. May God Bless you always!!

In Christ,  
Pastor Cindy Ritter

P.S. Thank you, WELCA for the beautiful quilt!

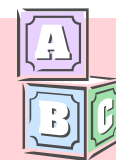
**“BIRTHDAY BINGO”  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Women of the Church host “Birthday Bingo” at the Lutheran Home’s Assisted Living a couple of times a year, and they need some help this October. Birthday Bingo will be Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran Home Assisted Living Dining Room from 2:30 to 3:30 pm (arrive at 2:15 to help set up). If you can help or if you have questions, please call Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719.

***NURSERY HELP NEEDED***

We are looking for volunteers to take care of children in the nursery during the 10:15 service. Thanks to those who have already signed up. If we could get three or four more people, we can rotate shifts, meaning each volunteer would be in the nursery once a month.

If you are interested, you can sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or contact Sarah Pawlaczyk at 419-250-2551. Thank you.





## DAYSCHOOL NEWS

*"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*  
— Matthew 5:14-16

Dear Friends,

I couldn't resist using the scripture chosen for last October's article. It is one we want to be sure is firmly planted in the hearts of the children. We teach them about God, and we want them to tell others about Him. We want them to be equipped to share the good news and to learn how to do it from an early age. Many parents tell us of their children bringing the topic of our awesome God to their dinner table discussions or to chats as they're driving in the car— stories of how these discussions bring joy to grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles. No wonder Jesus said let them come to me. He knows who can get the attention of many. :)

At school we hear our Father's name often. We talk about God, His Son, and His Spirit in every situation as well as in the more formal setting of the beautiful chapel. Our chapel lessons began the week of the 9<sup>th</sup>. The messages shared in chapel have been over the top. I am so thankful Pastor Cindy was able to take part in sharing stories of God's creation during September; *and* Pastor Rayl had 40 children listening attentively (no easy feat) as he spoke about growing in God. I am thankful, too, for the school teachers and Jamie who work hard at preparing chapels that teach biblical truths to children. Prayers for this piece of our ministry are always appreciated. If you are interested in presenting a chapel lesson we would love to share this experience with you. Sharing God's love with children connects you to their spirit...and they feel it and respond in the most beautiful ways. :)

We had a Trike-A-Thon on Sept. 14 and raised over \$1000 towards the playground renovation. As you may know, there is a dire need for the surface to be removed between the church and educational

building so that tiles can be replaced and water issues can be solved. The plan is to move the playground to a new location further from the building. The funds raised this year will go toward this. We currently are selling Save Around the City coupon books for \$20. If you are interested in purchasing one or know someone who is, your help would be greatly appreciated. Call the church office or look for Julie Gallaher, a member of our Dayschool Board, after church on Sundays.

Jamie has matched each of our kindergarten children with a prayer buddy, and she is distributing their information. Thanks to all who have agreed to take part in this ministry. I am sure it will be full of blessings for all! Please remember this does not need to be an expensive project-- just a prayerful one.

Finally, we're looking forward to another month of learning and growing together! We will visit the apple orchard and pumpkin farm, spend time with the clients of the Adult Day Center and the residents of the Lutheran Home, have our pictures taken, and celebrate at Halloween parties. Halloween parties will be Oct. 28<sup>h</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Children will arrive in costumes, trick-or-treat for candy, and I will do a special chapel in the church where we will learn about faith and ways they can let the light of Jesus shine in them! Lots to enjoy!

In Him,  
Barb Shellhammer

### **THANK YOU!**

Dear Barb and members of First St. John,

Thank you so much for awarding Cooper with a scholarship to First St. John Dayschool. It is a tremendous and generous gift that we truly appreciate. Cooper and Olivia already feel like their new school is home, for which we are grateful.

-- Sincerely, Larry and Leigh Ann Kesling

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 24th**

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

President Keith Mullen opened the Tuesday, September 17, 2013 meeting with Pastor Rayl giving the devotion.

**Secretary's Minutes** - Minutes from the August meeting were read. A motion was made by Laurie Witt to accept the minutes. Larry Paul seconded, motion carried.

**Sunday School-** Rally Day went really well with the illusionist. Bill Caldewell's grandson videotaped the Rally Day events and the first JAM session. Sunday School and Dayschool teacher installation was last Sunday along with the scholarships drawing. Trunk or Treat will be October 20 from 2 to 4 pm. Catechism for 7th & 8th grades will begin this week. Our new acolytes have been trained, and three volunteered for last Sunday already. Prayer Buddies will be ready this week.

**Elder's Report** - Bill Nelson reported the wedding schedule is set and the regular Sunday services were discussed. Those who worked on the cemetery last weekend were thanked. It was a wonderful ceremony and a touching dedication to Mr. Dickey.

**Property Mgmt.** - Larry Paul reported the rear entry door would not close/lock and this was fixed. Entry door on north side of garage had the lock replaced, and a classroom downstairs currently has a lock removed and will be repaired and reinstalled by tomorrow. The rest of the classroom locks also were checked. The area in front of the church was graded and seeded (where the old pine tree used to be). The new windows seem to be hard to lock. May have the window rep come out and see if this can be fixed. The eaves troughs on the east side of the educational building are plugged and need cleaned. The projector unit in the church is being cleaned on a schedule each year. JAM wanted to add their unit to the schedule so it could be cleaned at the same time.

**Treasurer/Finance Report** - The August report is on file in the church office. Jeff Smith motioned we accept the report, Tom Eppard seconded. Motion carried.

**Dayschool** - Barb Shellhammer reported the Trike-a-Thon was last weekend. About \$1,000 was made. The teacher installation service was beautiful, and

she thanked Pastor Rayl. Five families were given Dayschool scholarships. Three families were from First St. John, and the other two were from St. Mark. Pictures will be taken next week, and the photographer will be setting up for two days.

**Pastor's Report** - Toni gave a list of parishioners transferring out of First St. John: Paul, Evan and Anna Cygnor transferred to St. John Lutheran, Stony Ridge, Richard and Connie Gross to St. Luke in Curtice, Donna Koester to St. Mark, Toledo. Larry motioned we accept these transfers, Dick Haar seconded. Pastor Rayl thanked those who have helped him adjust to his new office, church and community. His door is always open for questions and if he does not have the answer, he will find it for you. Pastor Rayl clarified his position as the Interim Pastor, not the liaison with the Synod.

Synod events coming up: Mission Connectors will be having meetings in different churches. We are a part of the Toledo Eastside Network. Stewardship is the title of this new series. The meeting will be held October 13 at St. Mark's.

The conferences with the Bishop will be Nov. 14 at Reformation Lutheran on Douglas Road.

Mental Health Illness Sunday is the 3rd Sunday in October.

Lutheran Disaster Response is asking for donations for relief for Colorado flood victims, and an insert will be included in the bulletin.

Mike Folk thanked Pastor Rayl for his hard work.

Pastor Cindy said Dave Anderson from the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat will come and perform on October 24. More information to follow.

The East Toledo ministry group has been meeting, and Karen Holmes has been participating. The next one is October 7 at St. Mark's and more people are asked to be involved. A healing service is going to be planned. Toledo Area Ministries is in need of items for personal needs and a place to distribute them. They are asking churches for help with this. Thirty families can be served per month.