

---

---

# ◆ First St. John Journal ◆

---

Volume 26, Issue 9

September 2013

---

**D**ear Members of First St. John:

I want to thank you for allowing me this time of rest and soul searching. I want you to know that I had planned to return to First St. John, but now I realize it is time for me to resign. I truly wish to thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your pastor. You have allowed me to be with you through Christ in your joys and in times of deep sorrow. Thank you for that privilege!

This is a new chapter in the life of First St. John. May our God bless you and lead you into the future!

— *Pastor Robert Blohm*

## ***FAREWELL EVENTS FOR PASTOR BLOHM***

Pastor Blohm will be with us on Sunday, September 1st and Sunday, September 8th. September 8th is his last day preaching at First St. John. Please join us on Sunday, September 8th after the 10:15 service for a light brunch in the gym. A farewell dinner is also planned; please stay tuned to your bulletins, emails, and church website for specific information.

## **RALLY DAY**

September 8<sup>th</sup> is J.A.M. FEST (Sunday School) for children from ages pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Join us for a special presentation children of all ages will enjoy. Will McDaniel, a gospel illusionist will perform at 9:00 am. Will's illusions all convey a gospel message. Snacks will be provided and everyone will be able to tour the Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) area.

## ***FALL SCHEDULE***

Our regular schedule resumes Sunday, September 8th with traditional service at 7:45 am, Sunday School (JAM) at 9:00 am, and celebration service at 10:15 am. (Catechism classes and adult classes will begin September 15th at 9:00 am.) Join us!

## **REGULAR OFFICE HOURS**

On Tuesday, September 3rd, church office hours return to Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The office will be closed for Labor Day.



## ***THANK YOU!!***

Thanks to all the pastors who filled in while Pastor Blohm was on sabbatical: Pastor Ray Gottschling, Pastor Cindy Ritter, Pastor Al Baumann, Pastor Al Swartz, and Pastor Beth Huener. Thank you so much for making this time go smoothly.

## **CHAPEL COMMUNION**

Chapel communion will resume on Sunday, September 1st at 4:00 pm. Pastor Blohm will officiate.



## ***COUNCIL MINUTES***

*(continued from page 4)*

Meeting motioned to be adjourned by LuAnn Spoerl, Chris Hunsaker seconded, motion carried. Closing was led by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Folk  
Council Secretary



## Member Address Changes

Shannon Abbey  
4615 N. Holland Sylvania Rd Apt. 17  
Toledo, OH 43623

Chad & Crystal Baxter  
2428 Eastmoreland Dr.  
Oregon, OH 43616  
(Chase, Caiden, Carter)

Jessica Church & Ray Copelin  
4597 Muirvalley Ct.  
Batavia, OH 45103  
(Ray)

Darlene Lorenzen  
8416 Birchwood Ln.  
Northwood, OH 43619

Lance & Hope Martin  
6010 Navarre Ave.  
Oregon, OH 43616  
(Samantha, Alexander)

Mike & Traci Schweizer  
5958 Winterhaven Dr  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
(Morgan, Mason)

John & Susan Wern  
6029 Seaman Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43616

Joshua & Tiffany Wolff  
330 N. Norden Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43616  
(James)

## COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN DEDICATION

### Richard Dickey Memorial

The dedication ceremony for the Richard Dickey tombstone and First St. John's Commemorative Garden has been scheduled for Saturday, September 14 at 10:00 am at the north end of the cemetery. We have been working closely with representatives from Dunberger American Legion Post. *The Blade* as well as *The Press* have expressed interest in doing stories for their publications. A great majority of the pavers have been engraved, and Jeff Moritz plans to start work on the garden soon.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!***

A handful of volunteers have begun work on "sprucing up" the cemetery. If you have difficulty tending to your family plot, let us know and we will be happy to help. We can always use additional volunteers for clean up, so if you can give us some time please call Floyd (1-734-848-3644) or Joanne (419-693-2081) for a work schedule.

### ***HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS NEEDED***



We will celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Donations of produce, canned goods, etc. can be placed in the lounge on Friday, September 13 or the church by 10 am on Saturday, September. 14. Please help us to beautify our altar on this special occasion. The Altar Guild greatly appreciates your help. Thank you.

---

## 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), mailing this form: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605, or sending an email to: [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR CINDY

Dear St. John Folks,

God gives good gifts! Serving you this summer with Pastor Ray has been a true gift and joy! Thank you for your warm welcome and constant hospitality that was evident in so many ways. I thank God for the opportunity to serve with you, care for you, and learn from you. The blessing of spending such precious time with all of you will forever remain with me forever. Please know that my prayers are with you....the First St. John congregation, staff and Pastor Blohm, too.

May God's peace and blessings bring you much joy on your journey in the days to come!

In Christ,  
Pastor Cindy Ritter

## CIRCLE NEWS

**Ruth Circle & Miriam Circle** will meet Tuesday, September 3rd at 11:00 am in the lounge. Florence Partin's son, Dale, will lead the Bible study. Lunch will be provided.

**Rebecca Circle** will meet Saturday, September 7th at 11:30 am in the lounge.

**Hannah Circle** will meet Monday, September 9th at 7:00 pm at Kim Kwiatkowski's home. Call her if you need directions.

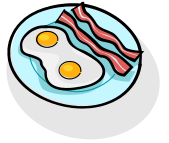


## NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We are looking for people to volunteer their time to take care of children in the nursery during the 10:15 service, which begins again on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We only need four or five people to sign up in order to be able to rotate volunteer 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.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 7th at 8:00 a.m. at Bob Evans on Navarre Avenue. We had 22 men attend last month, but there's always room for more! If you need a ride, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Join us!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20th

## WELCA BOARD MEETING

The board for the Women of the ELCA will meet on Monday, September 16th at 6:30 pm.

## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

We will meet on Monday, September 9th at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendar!



## DAYSCHOOL FUNDRAISER

"Save Around the City" is a coupon book with loads of coupons for area businesses, good throughout the year. This year's books are \$20 each. See Barb Shellhammer in the Dayschool office or Toni in the church office if you'd like to buy one.

## ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

9/1	Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy	
	<b>7:45 am</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>
9/8	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt	Tom Eppard Al Collins
9/15	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd
9/22	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson
9/29	Tom Eppard Al Collins	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt

By now your school and fall season activities have begun. Your Cemetery Mouse is no exception. While returning from my summer place on the Creek, I was pleasantly surprised to see the changes in the countryside. The drives are sharply trimmed and free of weeds growing in the cracks. Trees and bushes have been trimmed. Flowers were planted where appropriate; monuments were straightened and aligned.

Thanks to all who have performed these duties for the graves on their lots. A special thanks to all who helped over the entire cemetery, especially the Emch family crew who can be found working most any hour of the day doing those things for all of us. If you see them, take the time to introduce yourselves and thank them personally.

The extra cleanup effort will give St. John Cemetery a special standing in the community when we dedicate the St. John Commemorative Garden containing the Dickey Memorial Stone on September 14 at 10 AM. — *Your Mouse*

**MEMORIAL COLUMN NOTICE**

Because we only had one memorial in August, we will include it in next month's Memorials column.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

**Births**

8-13-13 *Marlee Rose Masserant*, born to Shane and Abbie (Skorupa) Masserant.

**Baptisms**

8-25-13 *Alexander Everett Karlene*, born November 16, 2012 to Carrie Phillips and Eric Karlene. Sponsors are Kelly Hickmen and Melynda Karlene.

**Marriages** None

**Deaths**

4-20-13 Lois Karamol

**Transfers To/From First St. John:** None.

**Treasurer/Finance** - Chris Hunsaker gave the report. A budget meeting will be on Sept. 12. If any group needs funds, contact a finance member before this date. Info on how to donate/tithe directly from a person's bank account will be included in the next minutes. Karen Holmes motioned we accept the report, Jeff Ladd seconded. Motion carried.

**Dayschool**- Orientation continues for preschool and pre-K, but kindergarten and extended care have begun. Prayer Buddies will be needed, so consider doing this. Trike-a-thon will be Sept. 14. Either Oct. 5 or Oct. 12 will be the FSJD Benefit Bash. Dinner, auction, dancing, and 50/50's will be planned. Cost, location and additional information will be forthcoming. Look for info on the church website, Facebook page, and Twitter. Payment from parents for the Dayschool is now being done electronically. Bill was not here to provide the financial statement.

**Pastor's Report**- Pastor Cindy received a call from Dave Anderson who is involved with the Arizona retreat Pastor Blohm went to. They perform concerts and wanted to know if we want them to perform for us. Dates available are Oct. 22 or Oct. 24 from 7-8:30. A \$250 fee plus free will offering is needed. We can look at [www.thefellowship.com](http://www.thefellowship.com). Thrivent may be able to match funds. They also need a hotel and/or a home to stay in. Pastor Cindy offered her home to them. Other churches would participate, and this would aid the Shepherd Canyon retreat. Darold Henninger motioned we do this, Bill Nelson seconded. Motion carried. An East Toledo Ministry group would like to help with the Alpha program as well as the concert. A healing service was mentioned, and a food pantry was suggested. Next meeting Sept. 3 at 7 PM at Martin Luther on Nevada. Pastor Cindy will stay until the end of Sept.

**Old Business** – none

**New Business** - The parking lot across the street is deteriorating but repair is postponed until next year. Celebration for Pastor's last day: Dinner TBD with coffee and dessert on Sept. 8. Mike Folk requested a room to store archives from the church. More communication is needed when a room is rented out to make sure the building is open and then locked up again. *(continued on page 1)*



## FROM JAMIE'S DESK

*(continued from page 7)*

### Sunday, September 15, 2013 at 10:15 a.m.

Join us for a special worship service. We will install and bless our Dayschool and Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) Sunday School teachers as they begin this wonderful adventure with your child(ren).

We are also excited to announce that at this service we will award scholarships to a few families from our school. These scholarships are to be used toward tuition at the Dayschool for the 13/14 school year.

We also like to support each other in our other outside activities. If there is a fundraiser, special event, etc., you would like us to help market and/or get a group to attend, please feel free to contact Jamie Blazeovich using the information below.

We also have plenty of volunteer opportunities if you are interested. Some only take 10 – 15 minutes. Whether you have 10 minutes to spare 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 contact Jamie Blazeovich.

#### Contact Information

419-691-7222 or [cedir@firststjohn.com](mailto:cedir@firststjohn.com)



### **BUDGET MEETING**

The Finance Committee will meet on September 12<sup>th</sup> to work on the 2014 budget. If your group needs funds, please contact members of the committee prior to that date: Chris Hunsaker (419-837-5567), Dennis Pavley (419-697-0701), Gloria Ross (419-836-7166), or John & LuAnn Spoerl (419-836-1651).

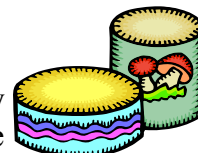
### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our adult class begins on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Join our bunch as we discuss the issues of today in light of the Word of God. All are welcome!

## **CHOIR PRACTICE & PICNIC**

Anyone over the age of 18 who loves to sing is invited to join our choir. Our first practice will be combined with our picnic on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30 pm at John & Karen Rowley's home. Regular practices begin on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

### **FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



Let's start off the fall season by helping those less fortunate. Please bring your canned goods and non-perishable food items and place them in the bins in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) and the lounge (near the double doors). Please do not bring in anything in a glass container since they may break during shipping. Thank you.

### **BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING**

Join us on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm as we get back in touch with each other and discuss what's happening in our ministries for the fall.



### **BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**

Come on out and join the Bell choir. Our first practice is Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the church. No experience necessary! Hope to see you there.

### **THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Our lunch/Bible study sessions begin on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Come, and together we'll discuss what we want to study this year! Bring your own lunch; coffee and water will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

### **MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**



Join us beginning Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the JAM Café (the area just outside the Sunday School room in the basement of the church). We will meet every Monday except the first Monday of each month.

## First St. John's Prayer Chain (as of 8-27-13)

**Crisis List** *Those who need prayers for upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Persons moved to Chronic after 1st month unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:*

**Gavin Boggs  
Christy Frankforther  
Matt Jenkins  
Emily Kruse  
Mike Miller  
Zach Mossbarger  
Cindy Roecker  
Zane Warner**

**Chronic List** *Those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery, and/or personal situations. Persons moved off after 3 months unless a prayer chain contact is notified of special circumstances:*

**George Ackerman  
Jordyn Beckhusen  
Karen Burris  
Baby Camille  
Gail Chaffee  
Larry Coy  
Jackie Curtis  
Jan Eppard  
Herb Frey  
Lily Georgeson  
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger  
Grace Heninger  
Margie Heninger  
J. Knudson  
Emily Kruse  
Pastor Labuhn  
Sophie LeDuc  
George "Skip" McCullough  
Jeanette Miller  
Christopher Molnar  
Monica (no last name given)  
Charlie Ohlson  
Hilda Saelzler  
June Smarkel  
Jim Swanson  
Lee Wagner  
Candy Webster**

**Terry Williams  
Joe Zielinski**

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

### **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

### ***MILITARY ADDRESSES***



Here are the names and addresses of 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!

*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

School has started and we are reminded of fresh starts and new beginnings. With this I am reminded of the Bible verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

What comforting words as students to know that God has plans for them as they start a new school year. He knows your struggles and your joys, and they are all for your good; for you to prosper and to give you hope for the future. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. These are also comforting words for parents. For the Lord knows the plans he has for your children. As they start this new school year, parents also struggle with anxiety and excitement for their children. Rest assured that as you pray throughout the day for your child that the Lord has them in his hands.

The church also has fresh starts and new beginnings. Below is a list of all our upcoming events.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.**

Join us for a special presentation that children of ALL ages will surely enjoy. This is the annual kickoff to our Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) weekly sessions. Snacks will be provided. You will then be able to tour our J.A.M. area.

#### **FEATURING:**

#### **WILL MCDANIEL: GOSPEL ILLUSIONIST** **A MAGIC SHOW WITH A MESSAGE!**

Will uses his illusions to bring THE MESSAGE to life. Each trick has a message to thrill the audience. Will's illusions are interactive, creative, and FUN! Will has entertained ages from 3 to 103! You can laugh, learn, and be uplifted by his performance.

#### **Sunday, September 15, 9:00 a.m.**

**JESUS AND ME (JAM):** Join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for age appropriate, Bible-based teaching and activities. Our mornings start out with 15 minutes of singing, then we break into groups

determined by age. Feel free to join us at any time. We would love to have you! Below is a schedule of what we will cover through September. There is a full list of topics covered on our website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com), under Christian Education.

#### **Schedule for JAM**

9/8	Rally Day
9/15	Living a Fruitful Life - Perseverance
9/22	Living a Fruitful Life - Don't Be Lazy
9/29	Living a Fruitful Life - Right Priorities

**CATECHISM:** Many new changes are happening in our Catechism classes. Catechism will consist of lessons two Sundays of the month, while the other two Sundays will be filled with faith testimonies--writing their faith testimonies (8<sup>th</sup>), and learning about the groups we have within our church (7<sup>th</sup>). The faith testimonies the 8<sup>th</sup> graders write will be presented as their final requirement before they are confirmed. For the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, we feel that while learning about the groups in our church, our youth might find an interest in one and hopefully, once confirmed, become a participant within that group. We have over 27 groups within our church. We will be introducing the youth to a few of these.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Adult Bible classes on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge begin September 15<sup>th</sup>. Join us and our bunch as we discuss the issues of today in light of the Word of God. All are welcome!

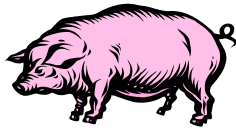
**THE VINEYARD:** Come to the Vineyard. "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5*. This Bible study follows a curriculum. We meet in the room next to the lounge on the second floor of the educational building.

**J.A.M. ADULT COFFEE HOUR:** We discuss the world today in a relaxed atmosphere. While our children in JAM learn about our GOD, we enjoy a nice conversation with our brothers and sisters in Christ—a nice way to start our Sunday morning. We begin Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the tables outside the JAM. Sunday School classes. Join us!

*(continued on page 5)*



## Chicken & Ham Dinner



Mark your calendars 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 p.m. This is a great community event, and it's not just for members. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers—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)

Watch your October bulletins and newsletter for more information and a sign up sheet with ways you can help us make this dinner a success.

## DAYSCHOOL NEWS



Dear Friends,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” — *2 Corinthians 5:17*

**New.** It's a word that hints at a variety of feelings. For some, “new” brings excitement, anticipation, and expectancy. Thoughts like “I wonder...?!” and “I can't wait...!” come to mind. For others, “new” makes the stomach worry with questions: “What if...?” and “Will it be ok?” come to mind. In Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” In this context “new” carries an overwhelmingly positive connotation. I believe “New” is overwhelmingly positive at First St. John Dayschool. Here's why.

**New students and families.** At this writing the children have just begun entering our building. There are many new students and families this year. Praise God! I can't wait to see how these families will bless the school and how the school will bless these families.

**New year.** A fresh start, a clean slate, an opportunity to commit anew to living out the gospel.

**New teachers and volunteers.** A few new teachers and volunteers are joining our ministry. I praise God for His provision of highly qualified individuals who love the Lord and want to serve Him at FSJD.

**New creations.** Oh, the gifts these teachers have! The atmosphere they create for learning never goes unnoticed or unappreciated.

**New fundraising.** We have two new fundraising ventures. Both will provide opportunity to bring the First St John congregation and Dayschool together. On Sat., September 14 a Trike-A-Thon will be held at the Miracle League in Northwood. This is the first of what we hope will be an annual event. The funds raised will go to create a new outdoor play space for all to enjoy. On Sat., October 5 a FSJD Benefit Bash will be held at St. Michael's Center. Food, fun, dancing, silent auction, raffle baskets, and a fifty-fifty raffle will be part of the fun. More information on both these events will be in upcoming bulletins.

*(continued on page 9)*



## Needed: Craft & Bake Sale Items

We need items to sell at the Craft and Bake Sale held during the Chicken and Ham Dinner on November 2nd. If you can help or if you would like to have your own craft table, please contact Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506 or Louise Sommers at 419-691-7719.



## MEN'S DARTBALL

Do you like to play darts? Dartball begins soon! If you want to play or have questions, call either Ted Mitchell at 419-345-6260 or Bill Nelson at 419-836-4165. Our first game is Monday, September 30th at 7:30 pm when our two First St. John teams will take on each other!



## DINNER WITH FRIENDS FUNDRAISER

The Hannah Circle is having a Tastefully Simple® fundraiser to help fund the dinners we host and to start other special events. Tastefully Simple® is a company that sells various food items that are all easily made with only one or two extra ingredients to add. Fortunately, Janine Contat, a member of the Hannah Circle, is also a Tastefully Simple® consultant.

Beginning September 15th and running through October 7th, Tastefully Simple® catalogs and order forms will be in the Narthex, lounge, and church office. Turn your order form in to the church office with your check made out to Janine Contat. You can also use a credit card; any credit card information is destroyed once the order is filled.

To order on-line, go to [www.tastefullysimple.com/web/jcontat](http://www.tastefullysimple.com/web/jcontat) All food orders are delivered directly to your home, so there is no pick-up hassle!

Ten to fifteen percent of the proceeds will go to the Hannah Circle to help fund fellowship activities, including Dinner With Friends. Please consider purchasing something to help our circle be able to hold even more events this year for all our First St. John friends!

*The Hannah Circle:* Janine Contat, Brenda Fussell, Kate Gladieux, Karen Holmes, Kim Kwiatkowski, Debbie Smith, Toni Wilbarger



## DINNER WITH FRIENDS SEPTEMBER 25

Join us on Wednesday, September 25th at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room for Dinner With Friends. Come for the food, the fun, the game(!), and for a nice evening out with your friends from First St. John. If you plan to attend, please fill out the RSVP slip below and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

-----  
*I/we will attend Dinner With Friends on Sept. 25*

Names \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DAYSCHOOL NEWS (continued from page 8)

**New Prayer Buddies.** Hoping you will be as excited about this as I am. His presence is obvious in the kindergarten class; He hears your prayers. Let Jamie Blazevich or I know if you want to be a part of this :)

**New scholarship recipients.** On November 1, 2011 George and Elaine Ackerman designated a gift to First St. John Lutheran to be used to start a scholarship fund to financially help students who are attending Kindergarten at First St John Dayschool. What a blessing! A few families will be awarded a partial scholarship for the 2013/2014 school year. Christian education is the foundation for a lifelong relationship with our Father. Thank you to the Ackerman's for seeing the value of this ministry. Those wishing to contribute to this fund may do so by making a note in the memo line on their check.

**Newly Installed.** The teachers of both JAM and the Dayschool will be installed at the 10:15 service on Sunday, September 15. Thank you for the invitation to join your congregation for worship and fellowship. I also want to acknowledge WELCA and thank them for the **new scholarships** that will be presented on September 15 because of their commitment to support this ministry.

As you can see, "new" is a positive word at First St. John Dayschool. All the "new" creates heightened anticipation for what God will do this year!

Our main objective is to lead children to Jesus, and without the support of this congregation that could never be accomplished. May our heavenly Father bless our school and church family as we grow together in His love.

In service to His children,  
Barb Shellhammer

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—AUGUST 27, 2013

President Keith Mullen opened the Tuesday, August 27, 2013 by asking by Pastor Cindy to read devotions. The meeting was called to order. Attendance was taken. Guests included Cathy Schibler and Sheri Kreiger representing the Synod and Jerry Rayl, interim pastor.

Pastor Cathy answered questions on Pastor Blohm's exit and interim Pastor Jerry Rayl's arrival. *Was this Pastor's choice?* Yes, Pastor chose to leave as his health was beginning to wear on him. *What have we done to help him?* We sent him on a 3 month sabbatical, but he came back unrefreshed, still burned out. Jeff Ladd suggested a better way to keep an eye out for our next Pastor to make sure they do not burn out. *Are we doing enough to help him now?* Yes, we are helping him in any and all ways we can. Sheri explained the cycle of ministry to the group and how it changes when the needs change. This is just a beginning of a new ministry for him. Cathy explained that the Covenant of Separation is a constitution of the Synod, and it is agreed upon that you cannot invite the pastor back for a sermon, wedding, funeral or a baptism. But you may invite him back as a friend.

We were then asked questions of what we need/want of our parish. Council members suggested many things, and highlighted our 150th year, JAM, Dayschool, prayer buddies, Vacation Bible School, our Christian Education Director, and Toni as the many things we appreciated. Things we need to work on: bringing new members in, contemporary services, chips on shoulders of certain groups, deeper Bible studies. Do we, as a congregation, need help to adjust to this change? We will put together a transition team with Pastor Jerry Rayl, so he can understand our needs and our traditions. A call committee will be brought together after this is completed. This may take about a year to do as we need to take time to adjust to the changes. It is preferred that if we have questions, we go to Keith and HE will contact the Synod. Pastor Rayl spoke and said he was a great listener and was ready to hear what we need to express.

**Secretary's Minutes-** Minutes from the July meeting were read. A motion was made by Dave Warnke to accept the minutes. John & LuAnn Spoerl both seconded, motion carried.

**Sunday School-** Rally Day is Sept. 8 with a gospel illusionist for entertainment. JAM classes begin Sept. 15 the installation of teachers following at the 10:15 service. "Living a Fruitful Life" will begin the first session. Catechism will have faith testimonials from church members to show how faith guided them in their life with guidelines such as "Before Christ," "When I Met Christ," and "After I Met Christ... How Has My Life Changed?". Eighth graders will write their own faith testimonies. We are happy to announce that Pam Beavers is the 8th grade teacher and Jeff Ladd is 7th grade teacher for catechism. A dinner will be planned before Confirmation where the students will read their testimonials. They will do this more one on one rather than to the whole group. April 20 is Easter in 2014, so should we put Confirmation into the first week of May? We are working on building our youth group and are looking for volunteers to help carry out activities. Karen is still working on the Alpha program with training on Nov. 9 that lasts 10 weeks from 6-9 in the evening. Four or five more people would be needed to start.

**Elders -** Bill asked when the projector/sound system was going to be fixed. The projector replacement cost is over \$3000 and would need to come from the improvement fund. A motion was made for us to purchase this equipment by Dave Warnke, seconded by Mike Folk (Mike Folk also asked about setting up a schedule on maintenance for certain pieces of equipment. Laurie Witt offered scaffolding when needed to change the filters and clean the equipment.) The sound system is not worth fixing, so a new sound board will be looked into for a cost of \$8,800 (digital). For \$974 we could purchase a lesser board. A new microphone has been purchased with a separate frequency. There is a hum on them due to fans running or from another source. Elders are ready for the two services starting on Sept. 8 with a wedding Sept. 21. Pastor Cindy asked that we check on the batteries in the microphones as they are draining very fast.

**Property Mgmt. -** Boilers were serviced recently and a pump was leaking. For \$1,400 we can fix it. Mike is going to work on a drain system on the side of church. He will get the ditch dug for it.

*(continued on page 4)*