# First St. John Journal



November, 2013 Volume 26, Issue 11

is difficult to believe the month of November is already upon us. But the summer has passed, the leaves are falling and soon will be blown away, and the winter chill is already being felt in the morning air. For the farmers this is the season for the harvest. For all of us as Americans this is the time for thanksgiving as we move toward the fourth Thursday of November, our national Thanksgiving Day.

One remarkable thing about Thanksgiving is that it has been less commercialized than many other holidays on our calendar, especially Christmas or Easter. Many families who would never dream of saying a prayer of grace before meals at any other time of year suddenly feel compelled to offer up some form of thanks before carving up the fatted bird and diving into the dressing.

To be involved in the act of "giving thanks," as implied with the name thanksgiving, means to acknowledge there is one who gives and that what we have is really a gift for which we should be grateful. As Christians we know that this *One* to whom thanks must be given is none other than the Lord God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And for this reason, a Christian's day of thanksgiving is not limited to one day on the calendar, rather, every day is a day of thanksgiving since for a Christian Giving Thanks is a style of living each day.

Ingratitude is something no one likes to see. Our faith in God puts us on a different level when it comes to how we see things. Living with, as some say, an "attitude of gratitude" keeps our lives whole and on the level. Here is a little illustration I found to help explain.

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# TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS!

Daylight savings time ends November 10 3rd. Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2nd.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 8th following both services in order to elect council members and vote on the 2014 budget.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CATECHSIM NOTICE

We will not have JAM Sunday School or Catechism on November 24th. We will resume class on December 1st.

## **BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

# CHICKEN AND HAM DINNER And Don't Forget the Craft and Bake Sale!

Saturday, November 2nd 4:00 pm —7:00 pm

Take Out Available Tickets available at the door!

Ticket Prices are \$9.00 for Adults, \$4.00 for children ages 3 - 12, and free for children 2 and under.

Don't forget to stop by the lounge during the dinner. You can view and buy beautiful craft items. Bake sale items also will be available.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

To all the faithful members of First St John:

Rumors and innuendos are coming to light which try to paint our former pastor in a bad light and reflect badly on us as a Christian community. Pastor Blohm left with our best wishes and prayers, and his work here is done. We have signed a letter, a covenant of separation, saying we are not to speak negatively about Pastor Blohm in any way. We need to focus on Christ and act accordingly, leaving Pastor's future job prospects up to him. Please consider keeping him in your prayers as he moves on.

It is time to look forward to the future of this church. PLEASE do not repeat or engage in any negative comments as they serve no purpose and only create division amongst ourselves. Anyone who has concerns or questions regarding things being said or done should contact me at 419-206-0203. Thanks, and God bless.

— Keith Mullen

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DEADLINE

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which gives Christmas gifts to needy children throughout the world. The pamphlets with suggested gifts are available with empty shoeboxes (boxes are unwrapped) in the lounge and in the JAM Sunday School room in the basement of the church. Once you fill a box (or boxes), please return it to the church office NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>. Shoeboxes will be delivered the next day, and we cannot accept them after that date. Thank you for your generosity.

# PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY



The East Toledo Lutheran Ministry began this summer. It consists of

laypeople and pastors from the five east Toledo Lutheran churches who meet monthly to share what is happening in their churches and to discuss and implement ways to serve our community.

**Personal Needs Pantry**: We are looking for volunteers to help with the new Personal Needs Pantry. This ministry will provide people in need with items that cannot be purchased with food stamps and will be located at the Lutheran Home Society. Many details are still being worked out at this time, but all the east Toledo churches are presently gathering volunteers. If we get enough help, you may only be needed once a month for two hours. If you would like to know more about this ministry, contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225.

We are also planning a Healing Service for the community in November in the chapel at the Lutheran Home.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of this group. Our next meeting is Monday, November 4 at 7:00 pm in the chapel at the Lutheran Home. If you have any questions you may contact Pastor Rayl, Karen Holmes, Laurie Witt, or Linda Kusian.

# **Member Address Changes**

Nicholas & Lauren Hagedorn 3465 Courtland Dr. Lewis Center, OH 43035

Janet St. Clair 29226 Silver Creek Dr. Apt. 1B Perrysburg, OH 43551

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

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

Name	
Address	
City, State Zip	Phone
J	

# WOMEN SUPPORT LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Last month, we sent 48 quilts, 25 personal care kits, and 10 baby care kits to Lutheran World Relief. These items will be sent around the globe to help those in need. Thank you.

#### NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Some interest has been expressed in having a class for individuals wishing to become members of First St. John. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this class, please contact the church office. An organizational meeting will be held to decide on the best time to conduct the classes. There will be between 4 and 6 sessions. Anyone else who would like to review some of the basics of our Christian faith and Lutheran teachings also is invited to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rayl.

# NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOVEMBER 18th

# **MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS**

Our next meeting is Saturday, November 2nd at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. at 8:00 a.m. Come and enjoy a good breakfast before working at the Chicken and Ham Dinner. All men are invited. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.

# **ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER**

11/3	7:45 am Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy	10:15 am Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson
11/10	Tom Eppard Al Collins	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt
11/17	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd	Jeff Smith Jason Blazevich
11/24	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

# Births

10-16-13 Ross Jonathon Church, born to

Roger and Kathy (Ross)

Church.

# **Baptisms**

10-27-13 Samantha Mae Vaculik, born

July 22, 2013 to Tommy and Kimberly (Beavers) Vaculik. The parents are also the

sponsors.

# **Marriages**

10-12-13 Matea Rice and Derek Cousino

10-26-13 Alissa Ladd and Jay Vieria

#### **Deaths**

10-4-13 Phyliss Wagner

Transfers to/from First St. John:

None

# **NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED**

Church Council is seeking volunteers for a number of committees for 2014, including elders, finance committee, property management, and Sunday School Board. If you are interested in volunteering for these positions, please call the church office.

## **DINNER WITH FRIENDS**

Dinner With Friends continues again in November. Join us on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Youth Room in the basement of the church. The menu will be a Thanksgiving turkey dinner. Come for the food, the fun, and a nice evening out with your friends from First St. John.

So we know how many to plan for, please RSVP using the slip below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Or, you can call the office at 419-691-7222.

Yes! I/we will attend Dinner With Friends on November 20th.

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# NEWS FROM JAMIE'S DESK

# **Being Thankful**

God gave to us a gift through Jesus Christ. Recognizing God's grace causes me to have a thankful attitude.

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God." -- 2 Corinthians 4:15

#### "Thirty Days of Giving Thanks!"

It's simple. Take a moment each day in November and thank someone in your life. Send a text, make a call, leave a post-it, write an old fashioned letter...Make eye contact. Smile. And say thanks. It doesn't matter how you thank them. Simply think of someone in your life - each day - and tell them why you are thankful for them.

#### Thank thirty people in thirty days.

Can't think of thirty? Look more closely at the people you encounter in a day. The postman. The barista. The friendly teller at the bank. The woman who always stamps your parking ticket. Your neighbor down the street. Is there a local store owner who makes you feel welcome every time you shop? Do you have a favorite sacker at the grocery store? How about someone you work with that makes you laugh? Do you have a favorite hair stylist, massage therapist, or yoga teacher? Have you told your best friend how much you appreciate their friendship? Did you ever thank your favorite teacher? Has anyone helped change the course of your life? What about someone you are really close to – like your kids or spouse – when's the last time you thanked them? Taken from the website:

http://www.afreespiritlife.com/the-giving-thanks-challenge/



We are so thankful for all our volunteers and those who donated their time, money and/or candy to our 2013-2014 Trunk or Treat. We had a FANTASTIC turnout. We had 23 (our goal was 21) cars and 100 children that participated. Last year we had 16 cars and 110 participants! We have the best people here at

First St. John Lutheran Church and Dayschool!!

Our Christmas Play for this year is titled: A Super Christmas, and it will be held during the 10:15 service on December 15, 2013. If anyone has experience in directing any kind of plays and would like to help with the Christmas play this year, we can use all the help we can get. Please contact Jamie A.S.A.P. if interested.



# **Donations for JAM:**

We are looking for donations of Clorox wipes. If you can donate, we would appreciate it. You can drop them off in the church office or in the JAM room in the basement. Thank you!



<u>Volunteers</u>: We are always looking for volunteers for JAM, whether you have 10 minutes to spare or can volunteer for the whole hour, we can definitely use you God given hands and talents. It is also a great way to get involved and meet other parents like you. If interested, please contact me at the information at 419-691-7222 or cedir@firststjohn.com

# **NEWS FROM JAMIE**

(continued from page 4)

Catechism: Sundays from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. — November Schedule

# 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

November	3		All Church Events (SS Board)
	10	Ten Commandments	The First Commandment
	17		Altar Guild
	24	Thanksgiving	NO CLASS

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

November	3	The Lord's Prayer	Intro to the Lord's Prayer / First Petition
	10		Faith Testimony Working Class
	17	The Lord's Prayer	The Second Petition
	24	Thanksgiving	NO CLASS

The 7th and 8th graders have been hearing faith testimonies from members of our congregation. They have been respectful and we are so proud of our catechism students. For the 8th graders' final "test," they will be presenting their faith testimony to members of council. The should have a rough draft started by the end of December. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie.

# Jesus and Me: Sundays 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. — JAM Schedule

# **JAM Elementary Schedule:**

November	3		Attributes of God—God is to be Feared
	10		Attributes of God—God is Just
	17		Thanksgiving Lesson – Don't Worry—Be Thankful
	24	Thanksgiving	NO JAM

# JAM Preschool/Kindergarten Schedule:

November	3		God Living—Who Will Go?
	10		God Living—Heavenly Homes
	17		Thanksgiving Lesson – Real Thanksgiving
	24	Thanksgiving	NO JAM

# HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS AND BOOTS COLLECTION

The Women of the Church are still collecting for local children. We need hat and mitten sizes 0 through adult. We also are collecting toddler and preschool size socks and boots for the Toledo Day Nursery. Place your donations in the specially marked boxes in the Narthex and/or the lounge. We will collect through mid-November. Thanks for your generosity.

# WOMEN'S PROGRAM "MOM'S HOUSE"

Everyone is welcome to join the Women of the church at its program on Saturday, November 16th at 10:00 am when we will hear from a representative from "Mom's House," a program that helps low income single mothers graduate from high school, technical school, and college to help them break the cycle of poverty. They also provide tools and resources to help moms become better parents. A brunch will be served. If you can help by providing a breakfast casserole or fruit for the brunch, please sign the clipboard in the lounge. Thanks!

## ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come join us on Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 pm in the gym for our annual adult Christmas party. Once again, Takacs Catering will prepare the dinner for us. Entertainment will be by "The Hot Flashes." Free will offering. In order to know how many dinners to order, please fill out the RSVP slip below and turn it in to the office (or fax or mail it in). Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

Yes! I/we will attend the Christmas Party December 1st
Name(s):
Phone:

#### WE REMEMBER...

On All Saints Sunday, November 3rd, we remember the saints of First St. John who entered the Church Triumphant during the past year:



Harry A. Myrice	5/10/1931 - 11/04/2012
George M. Wagner	3/22/1941 - 11/09/2012
Larry A. Vogstberger	10/10/1949 - 11/11/2012
Eleanor P. Symington	8/03/1928 - 12/12/2012
Helen L. LaCourse	12/18/1928 - 1/04/2013
Elaine L. Ackerman	1/01/1930 - 2/04/2013
Raylene K. Draeger	1/04/1935 - 2/16/2013
Edith R. Schuffenecker	4/04/1925 - 2/20/2013
Frank H. Gerrard	7/04/1922 - 3/04/2013
Virginia M. Hoffman	3/02/1927 - 3/18/2013
Nyla M. Gerrard	6/25/1924 - 4/09/2013
Lois W. Karamol	5/08/1921 - 4/20/2013
Vivian R. Kuhlman	5/09/1927 - 4/26/2013
Mary J. Dippman	2/21/1927 - 5/08/2013
Bonnie J. Varga	6/07/1934 - 6/16/2013
John Deuble	1/26/1928 - 9/24/2013
Phyliss J. Wagner	1/27/1930 - 10/04/2013

And we remember these friends & family members:

Dick & Joan Bailey, Fred & Helen Bailey, Ross
Batchman, Mark Beeley, James & Jake Blazevich,
Mark Brecklen, Homer & Elizabeth Brundage,
Winnie Draper, Bill & Fran Ehrsam, Alfred &
Naomi Foss, Jim Gallaher, Clarence & Iva Grant,
Brenda Nissen Gilbertson, Don & Caroline
Hecklinger, Angela Heisler, Anna Jablonski, Joe
& Elaine Kraynik, Terry Kruse, Aiden Michael
Myrice, Andrea Schumaker, Jay R. Smith, Tim
Smith, James & Jane Swanson, Austin Takacs



# First St. John Prayer Chain

(as of  $10/28/\overline{13}$ )



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

Jessica Mueller Nancy Pfefferle Kara Wasserman

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 Ann Sherman Connor Jackie Curtis** Jan Eppard Rebecca Ervin **Christy Frankforther Herb Frey** Fred Garza **Lily Georgeson Bob & Debbie Hecklinger Grace Heninger** Margie Heninger **Pastor Labuhn** Sophie Le Duc **Norma Manteuffel** George "Skip" Mc Cullough **Jeanette Miller** Mike Miller **Christopher Molnar** Zach Mossbarger **Charlie Ohllson Demetra Pender Cindy Roecker** Dr. Steve Row Hilda Saelzler **Brenda Seimet June Smarkel** 

# Gordon Thayer Family of Phyliss Wagner Candy Webster Terry Williams

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

#### **Prayer Chain Contacts**

Carol Abbey 351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com

Lynn Folk 691-3410 Donna Koehn 693-5030 Ada Kreger 693-1549 Gloria Ross 836-7166

#### REBECCA CIRCLE NEWS

Our November meeting will be Saturday, November 9 at 11:30 am. The date was changed because of preparation for the Chicken & Ham Dinner on our regular meeting date.

#### MILITARY ADDRESSES

These are the members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. You can send cards or packages to these service people, and remember to pray for them, too!

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

# 2013 POINSETTIA SALE

Sponsored by the Altar Guild

Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship on Christmas Eve. Place this form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to: First St. John Altar Guild

# Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 8, 2013.

No. of plants @ \$8.00 each

Color (circle one): Red White	
Enclosed \$	
Name	
Address	
*	
CityS	tate
Zip Phone	
In Loving Memory of (Deceased):	
*	
In Honor of (Living):	
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#### **MEMORIALS**

## **CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of <u>Phyliss Wagner</u> by Terry & Jane Schuetz, Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Mary Ellen Miller.

# **HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES**

In memory of **Phyliss Wagner** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of **Phyliss Wagner** by Gene Hagedorn, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Ada Kreger.
In memory of **John Deuble** by Ada Kreger.

## **QUILTERS**

In memory of **Phyliss Wagner** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Esther Bell, Jean DeWitt, Ruth Circle.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

In memory of <u>Phyliss Wagner</u> by Penny & Jim Lenardson, Joanne Crandall, Penny DeWitt

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND

In memory of <u>Phyliss Wagner</u> by Bob & Holly Bennett, Rocky & Belinda Cavins.

## **CHOIR FUND**

In memory of <u>Phyliss Wagner</u> by Dick & Lola Crouse, Edward & Valerie Keen, Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Amy Zajac – CC Bella Salon.

## **AIR CONDITIONING FUND**

In memory of **Phyliss Wagner** by Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger.

# **CURRENT FUND**

In memory of <u>Phyliss Wagner</u> by Marvin & Carol Keller, Dave & Diane Habegger, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Gene & Karen Wright, Laurie & Jeff Huskisson, Darlene & Larry Paul, Mark & Deb Ackerman, Wendell & Deb James, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Richard & Jane Phillips, Jeff & Robyn Mack, Norma Jene & Jill Newell, Roy & Rita Riegle, Ron & Peg Hanna, Dean & Lil-Mar Stroh, Miller, Gardner & Company, LLC; Karen Frey, Hank & Joanne Schumaker.



# Happy Thanksgiving From Our Dayschool Kindergartners



Dear Friends,

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

Thank you, God, for . . .

Animals.

Nate

My Grandma and Papa.

- Madison

Pumpkins.

- Kaden

Trees.

- Brody

My family.

- Emily

Food.

- Simon

Air to breathe.

— Eliana

Fruit.

- Jacob

Mom and Dad.

— Brayden

My brother.

— Iris

My x-box.

— Carter B.

Trees, family, and my house.

- Carter W.

Everybody I know.

- Sophia

My Daddy and Mommy.

— Cooper

My hermit crabs and Jacob.

- Alex

For making me.

- Nick

Everything.

- Josalyn

Happy Thanksgiving!!



# PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

The Apostle Paul understood this in his life of faith even though he faced great difficulties and sufferings. Paul wrote: "... be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves ... giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-20)

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17f)

Knowing the success of Paul's life, can we do otherwise? May all of you enjoy this Thanksgiving holiday. But, please, don't let it be the only time that you and your family give thanks to the Lord for all God's good and generous gifts.

— Pastor Rayl

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—OCTOBER 15, 2013

Pastor Rayl opened the Tuesday, October 15, 2013 meeting with a devotion and prayer. President Keith Mullen called the meeting to order. A motion was made by John Spoerl and seconded by Dave Warnke to accept the minutes from the September meeting, motion carried.

Sunday School w/New Business—Karen Holmes reported the East Toledo Lutheran Ministries' program will meet on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Chapel at the Lutheran Home of Toledo for a Healing Service. This includes 5 churches associated with this ministry. Also included with this ministry is a program call the Personal Needs Ministry. This involves the collection of personal needs items that are not available with food stamps.

Karen will be attending an AlphaUSA informational training program next month and will receive more details on this course and will have more to review with us at next month's council meeting.

Christian Education Report—Jamie Blazevich is working with Bill Caldwell's grandson to put the finishing touches on the video he made of Rally Day.

The nursery is now staffed, and Jamie is working with Property Management/Elders to make sure the TV/sound of the worship service is available to the people in the nursery.

**JAM**-is running smoothly. We are collecting shoebox items for Operation Christmas Child. Our goal is to collect 54 boxes this year; if that is achieved there will be a doughnut party.

Catechism-We have had one faith testimony and we will have another at the end of October. We are hoping the students will have a rough draft of their faith testimony by Christmas.

Trunk or Treat-will be October 20 from 2-4 in the

back of the church. Volunteers are needed to decorate their trunks and to help run games/snack tables. We would like to have at least 21 cars. **By Design-**mom's group will start up in November. Meeting twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Once a month we will have a speaker and the other time we will be participating in a book study. We have quite a few moms interested, so we will need volunteers to help with child care those two mornings a week.

If possible donations of graham crackers, animal crackers, etc., would be appreciated.

Christmas Play-practice will start within the month. We will practice after the children's sermon up in the gym. Dates/times for those practices will be announced once we have all parts handed out. Also, the second Kindergarten room will be cleaned out shortly for church business use.

# Elder's Report—None

**Property Management**—Larry Paul is reviewing to see if our electrical service into the building may have affected the sound board. Toledo Edison will be contacted to check the lines into our building. The eaves troughs on the east side of the educational building are still on the top of the list of Property Mgmt issues to be addressed.

**Treasurer/Finance Report**—Lisa Anderson is projecting that we should be in the area of \$325,000 for our budget and is hoping we have no major snow and other events that would affect that number yet this year.

Chris Hunsaker mentioned that the 2014 budget is being finalized and will be presented to the congregation on December 8<sup>th</sup>. She also asked that any receipts/expense items be turned in as soon as possible in order to prepare for year-end reporting.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Rayl is getting acquainted with the parishioners and also the people in our neighboring community. On November 14<sup>th</sup> at Reformation Lutheran Church, on 4543 Douglas Road from 5:30-8:15 there will be a conference with the Bishop on the Lutheran church. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Old Business**—Dave Anderson from the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat will be here to perform the Gospel music concert on October 24th.

A motioned to adjourn the meeting was made by Luann Spoerl and seconded by Dave Warnke. The motion was carried. Closing was led by Pastor Rayl with everyone praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,