



First St. John Journal



Volume 26, Issue 12

December, 2013

Some things become so familiar that we risk overlooking their importance and significance. This human trait can be the basis for aggravation in our most intense and intimate relationships. How often do spouses level this complaint at one another, or parents to their children, or workers and bosses, or even between close friends?

Unfortunately the Christmas holy-day can fall within this category. It all seems so familiar and “traditional” - in fact, such a great amount of physical and emotional energy is expended to maintain traditions that Christmas risks losing some of its original surprise and newness. But, when you stop to think about it, what is more surprising and wondrous than a newborn child? As familiar as the “old, old story” may be to us, we must keep in mind that for some it is a new, new story, or a faint, distant echo. And in the frenzied and noisy secular celebration, this story will not get told. It is up to those who know the true story of Christmas to tell it and share it.

One of my Seminary professors once shared this thought: “I think at times we take for granted that people already know the Christmas message, and we mistakenly assume they know what it is all about. . . When we stand in awe at the manger in Bethlehem and see in truth the precious gift of this child to us, we realize again the gracious gift of the Gospel. . . It is so important for us to hear, believe, and proclaim this truth during this season.”

This time of year, more than any other, people are receptive to an invitation to attend a service of worship. Don’t miss the opportunity to extend an invitation for someone to join our First St. John Lutheran congregation in praise and worship this Christmas season.

We do well to remember that one of the reasons we celebrate the festivals and holidays of the church year is our tendency to forget God’s merciful presence. In Word and Sacrament we are not only reminded of God’s promises, we also encounter the very presence of Jesus Christ. The angel in the Christmas story names the holy

child Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” The wonder of God’s Son born as a humble infant is the power of God’s love made real in our midst. The incarnation of Jesus challenges and empowers us to look for God as God comes to us in ordinary ways, offering extraordinary gifts—new life in baptism, gracious words to guide us on life’s path, and welcome food for the journey of faith.

Christmas is our annual opportunity to again join the ageless chorus of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and magi, and all the angels of heaven in offering thanks to God for the One who was born to save us from the power of sin and death. We remember and celebrate that God is with us now. “For unto you is born THIS DAY, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!”
— *Pastor Rayl*



ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY REMINDER

If you sent an RSVP for the Adult Christmas Party, please remember to join us on Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 pm in the gym. Takacs Catering will prepare dinner for us, and a group called “The Hot Flashes” will entertain us. Hope to see you there!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve:

- 11:00 am Chapel Service
- 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service



No Sunday School on December 22nd or December 29th. The church office will be closed at noon on December 24th, closed on the 25th and 26th and January 1st and 2nd. We begin our regular Sunday schedule on January 5. Merry Christmas, everyone!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

11-17-13 *Anna Mabel Clair*, born September 4, 2013 to Kyle and Sabrene (El Helou) Clair. Sponsors are Jessica Miller, Kelli Hall, and Sarah Mendoza.

11-17-13 *Brenah Rae Hugueley*, born February 11, 2013 to Eric and Tamera (Morse) Hugueley. Sponsors are Ryan and Kate Hugueley and Craig and Kelly Morse.

Marriages

None

Deaths

None

Transfers To First St. John

Tamera Hugueley from St. John Lutheran in Williston, OH.

Transfer From First St. John:

Kevin Fouty to Our Savior Lutheran in Great Falls, MT.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A traditional German church service in the Christmas spirit will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 3:30 p.m. here at First St. John. The Teutonia Mannerchor and Damenchor choirs will perform during this service. Please join us for wonderful fellowship and Christmas spirit.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS



The last day to accept poinsettia orders is Sunday, December 8th. Please have your order turned in to the church office by then, or you can order poinsettias in the Narthex after church on December 1st and 8th.

The Guild will meet on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm in the lounge for their year-end meeting and Christmas dinner. All new members for 2014 are invited to join us.

ATTN: CATECHISM & JAM KIDS

There will be no catechism on December 22nd or December 29th because of the holidays. We'll resume classes on January 5th.

ELDERS FOR DECEMBER

| | <u>7:45 am</u> | <u>10:15 am</u> |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st | Eric Johnson Laurie Witt | Tom Eppard Al Collins |
| 8th | Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich | Dick Haar Jeff Ladd |
| 15th | Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy | Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson |
| 22nd | Tom Eppard Al Collins | Eric Johnson Laurie Witt |
| 24th | Christmas Eve — TBA | |
| 29th | Dick Haar Jeff Ladd | Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich |

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Louis Takacs by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

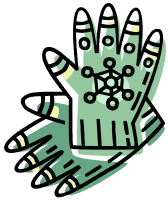
CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Phyliss Wagner by William Fischhaber, Carl & Janet Morrison, Sue Moszkowicz.

In memory of Pastor Buenting, John Deuble, Bonnie Varga, Vivian Kuhlman, Lois Karamol, Elaine Ackerman, Eleanor Symington, Lewis Wagner, Mary Dippman, Nyla & Frank Gerrard, Edith Schuffenecker by Sue Moszkowicz.

CURRENT FUND

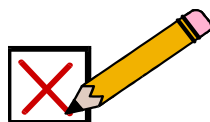
In memory of Bonnie Varga by M/M Kevin Ruedy.



THANK YOU FOR HATS, GLOVES, MITTENS & SOCKS

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who donated hats, gloves, mittens and socks to our annual program for needy children in our area. We received many handmade donations, also. We were able to share those donations with the following schools: First St. John Dayschool, Starr Elementary, Coy Elementary, Jerusalem Elementary, Raymer Elementary, Genoa Elementary and the Toledo Day Nursery. WOW!!! Look at all the heads, hands and feet you are helping to keep warm and dry this winter. God bless all of you.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Our annual congregational meeting is Sunday, December 8th at both services. We'll vote on the 2014 budget and new council members.

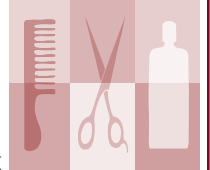
A copy of the proposed 2014 budget is included in this newsletter (separate attachment if you receive the newsletter by email). If you have questions about the budget, please call Jim Sommers at 419-691-7719 or 419-297-7420.

BOB EVANS COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS MINISTRY

If you receive your newsletter via email, there is a coupon attached to the email for a Bob Evans Fundraiser for our new Personal Needs Ministry. Those who do not have email can pick up a coupon in the lounge or Narthex or use the coupon in your Sunday bulletin.

Take this coupon to Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave. on Wednesday, December 11th anytime from 10 am to 8 pm and present this coupon when you check out so the newly formed Personal Needs Pantry will receive 15% of the proceeds from your order. The coupon is valid on either dine-in or carryout orders. Thank you for your support of this new ministry.

PERSONAL NEEDS MINISTRY



One of the projects of the East Toledo Lutheran Ministry is a Personal Needs Pantry for families in East Toledo and the surrounding areas. This pantry will provide people in need with items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. This pantry will be located at the Lutheran Home Society on Seaman Street in Toledo.

We are presently working on gathering volunteers from all five east Toledo Lutheran churches. We will need volunteers to operate the pantry which will be open once a week for two hours. If we could get a team of two or three (or more) people from each church then you may only have to volunteer every five weeks for two hours. Other volunteer opportunities include shopping for the items and keeping track of inventory.

If you would like to volunteer, or would simply like more information about this ministry, please contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or email her at cheh17@aol.com.



JAM (SUNDAY SCHOOL) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Join us on Sunday, December 15th
at the 10:15 service for the JAM
Sunday School Christmas program.

First through sixth graders will rehearse on Sunday,
December 1st after the children's sermon during
the 10:15 service AND during the 10:15 service on
Sunday, December 8th. On the day of the program,
please have your children here at 9:00 am for a
quick practice before the service at 10:15.
Questions? Call Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222.

CHICKEN & HAM DINNER UPDATE

Thank you for making our dinner a great success. We
served between 650 and 700 dinners and made a profit of
\$4,003.55. Thanks to everyone who worked in any way to
help with this event.

Also, many thanks to First St. John's bakers who
contributed to the Chicken & Ham Dinner Bake Sale. The
delicious goodies was greatly appreciated! Proceeds will
help fund various projects in the church for the coming
year. Thanks!



MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our next men's breakfast will be
Saturday, December 7th at 8:00 am at
Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave.

This is our advent breakfast, so please join us. If you
need a ride, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

SECRET SANTA PROGRAM AT LUTHERAN HOME



If you or your church group or family
would like to adopt a resident for Christmas, please
contact Diane Cline at 419-693-0751 to obtain a
resident's name and their wish list. Please wrap
your gift and place a name tag on it, and then drop it
off at the Activity Department. Deadline for turning
in your gifts if Friday, December 13th. Thank you
for your help and generosity.

2013 POINSETTIA SALE

Sponsored by the Altar Guild

Fill in the order blank below to place your
order for poinsettias to be used during worship
services on Christmas Day. Place your order
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 _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

In Honor of (Living):



MOUSE HOLES AND MORE

Have you ever discovered a hole in something of value that you attributed to a mouse? Webster defines “hole” as “an opening into or through anything.” Actually, holes are nothing! We see a hole as empty space in an object.

We at First St. John had the good fortune to have a master hole maker among us. When our Chapel in the Educational building was built, this hole maker built the pews. The wood was specially sawn to dimension, unlike commercial lumber at the local yards. The seats are solid and substantial while the backs are a collection of “holes.”

Four lines of 26 square holes are in each of the 8 pews, making a total of 832 holes, all 1.75” square and varying in depth from 2 to 3 1/2 inches, and all assembled from special woods and hand finished to perfection-- a masterpiece of wood joinery constructed by John White in memory of his father-in-law, Oscar Hecklinger. The pews were refinished a few years ago by Bob Hecklinger, Jr. Can you imagine the hours of labor to refinish this special gift? John White has another distinction: Very appropriately, John’s tombstone is the only stone bench in St. John’s cemetery. Have you seen it?

Another “have you seen”: On dedication day for our Commemorative Cemetery Garden containing the Dickey Memorial Stone, a framed photo of Dickey’s ship was presented to us. It now hangs beneath his memorial picture in the east Narthex Bay.

— *The Mice*



HELP FOR LOCAL BENEVOLENCES

During Advent and Lent, we offer the opportunity for members to help fund our local benevolences, such as the new East Toledo Ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Feed Your Neighbor, and the Lutheran Home. Special Christmas envelopes can be found in the pews and in the lounge and Narthex if you wish to donate. You can place your donation in the offering plate or mail it back to the church. Thank you.

THANK YOU!



We wish to express our appreciation and gratefulness for the Veterans Day tribute presented at the Sunday services on November 17th by Pastor Rayl. This was one of the finest tributes in our memories and should be heard by all. Veterans and the families of veterans and those who supported the war efforts are to be remembered for the efforts to defend the liberties we cherish. Everyone should have stood a little taller with shoulders thrown back as the service was closed. If you missed it, I am sure a copy of the recorded service would give you that opportunity. Many thanks, Pastor.

— *The First St. John Veterans*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DECEMBER 21st

MILITARY ADDRESSES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. Please remember them especially at this time of year. You can send cards or packages, and remember to pray for them, too! Thank you.

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



And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. — Luke 2:9-12

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to all of you! May your hearts be filled with both peace and joy as we await again the birth of Jesus. This month the true meaning of Christmas-- that God came to earth as the little baby Jesus to be our Savior and King, will be planted in the hearts of the Dayschool children. This is truly a season filled with joy and wonder! We anticipate the excitement will grow as the children learn the story of Jesus' birth and prepare for the Christmas programs they will share with their families and friends and hopefully some of you! They will learn Advent means "coming" and we must use the next four weeks to get ready for the special birth. They will learn the best present of all is Jesus and He is from a God who loves us all!

Thanks to all who helped with our Thanksgiving Feasts! Pastor Rayl, Jamie Blazeovich, Darlene Paul, and Karen Holmes were all on hand to help serve and do clean up. Gene Hagedorn was available to set up tables and chairs, rid us of garbage, quick mop floors and anything else that I asked of him! Can't say enough about how often, and how much, Gene is on hand for our big productions! And, as always, Toni Wilbarger assisted those with questions or who needed assistance with the elevator. We fed almost 1,000 people again this year, and the extra hands were so appreciated.

Our Christmas programs will be in church on the evenings of December 16, 17, 18, and 19 beginning at 7:00 pm. We will also have three programs during the day on the 18 and 19. How special it is for the families of our school to be welcomed into the church by so many of you. Once again, thank you for your support.

We plan to carol this year at both the Lutheran Home and at the Alzheimer's Day Center. This is a gift the children love to give and it is a moving experience for all involved. This is a part of our ministry that we pray continues to strengthen. Please keep it in your prayers.

Our focus on the true meaning of Christmas will be celebrated with a birthday party for Baby Jesus. The Spanish custom of La Posadas is a long-standing tradition at the Dayschool where we walk through the halls knocking on doors and looking for room for Baby Jesus. Eventually, we end up in the church where a Nativity scene has been set up. We are so happy when we finally find room and are allowed to enter! We lay our gifts at the manger and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

A Benefit Bash is planned for October, 2014. This is our largest event to date and we are hoping for your help. The initial planning meeting will take place in January. Please let one of the Dayschool Board members know if this is a way you feel your hands would be useful. Board members are as follows: Bill Hamilton, Laura Dewitt, Melissa Collins, Bill Caldwell, and Julie Gallaher.

Our second annual MOM2MOM sale will be on Saturday, March 1! Why am I talking about this now? Because I know closets are being organized and toys are being sorted in anticipation of Christmas gifts. My suggestion is to box and label them for the sale. Renting a table or donating the goods are ways you can help us raise funds for both the Dayschool and the By Design ministries.

Join us in the prayer that our children will follow the teachings of a God who loves them so much He gave them His Son and that our teachers, who give more than should ever be expected, will be renewed in their faith, continuing to serve God through serving children.

We, the staff of First St. John Dayschool, want to wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas season. Merry Christmas from Us All!

In Him,
Barb Shellhammer

2014 FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS

You can now sign up for altar flowers for January through November of 2014. The sign up sheets are in the red flower book located on the shelf under the main bulletin board in the Narthex, to the left of the main doors when you come into the church.

First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain (As of November 21, 2013)

Crisis Prayer List: *For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to the Chronic list after the first month unless someone is contacted about special circumstances:*

**Ron Curtis
Elnore Groll
Riley (no last name given)**

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 someone is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**George Ackerman
Jordyn Beckhusen
Rose Belville
Gavin Boggs
Karen Burris
Baby Camille
Ann Sherman Connor
Rebecca Ervin
Christy Frankforther
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
Jessica Mueller
Charlie Ohlson
Demetra Pender
Nancy Pfefferle
Cindy Roecker
Dr. Steve Row
Brenda Seimet
June Smarkel
Gordon Thayer
Candy Webster
Terry Williams**

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed below-know if individuals can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

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 |

WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

Ruth Circle: Christmas lunch at B.J.'s Steakhouse on Tuesday, December 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

Miriam Circle: Christmas brunch on Wed., December 4th at 10:30 a.m. at the Bayberry Clubhouse. Please bring a dish to share.

Rebecca Circle: Christmas lunch at B.J.'s Steakhouse on Saturday, December 7th at 11:30 a.m.

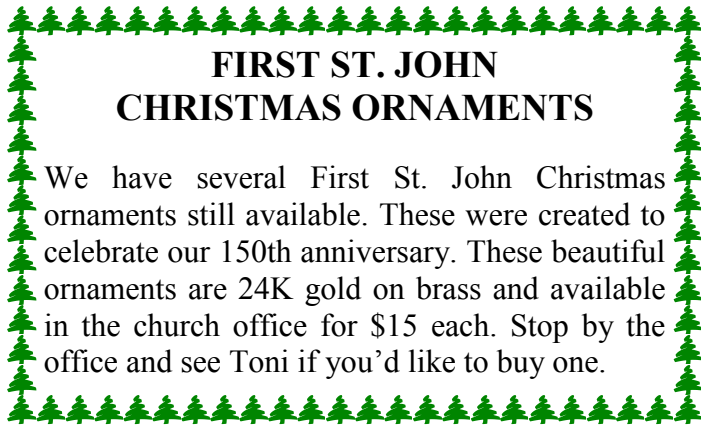
Hannah Circle: Meet at Brenda Fussell's home on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MINUTES (continued from page 10)

New Business -A proposal was made for revising the church and Dayschool constitutions. Two committees are needed to work on both halves. Then the groups will form one constitution, ready for Synod approval. A motion was made by LuAnn Spoerl to proceed, seconded by Tom Eppard. Motion passed. The December council meeting coincides with the Dayschool's Christmas program, so a new date is needed. December 10 is our next meeting. John Spoerl motioned we adjourn. Kevin Ruedy seconded. Motion carried. A prayer was led by Pastor Rayl.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Folk
Council Secretary



FIRST ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

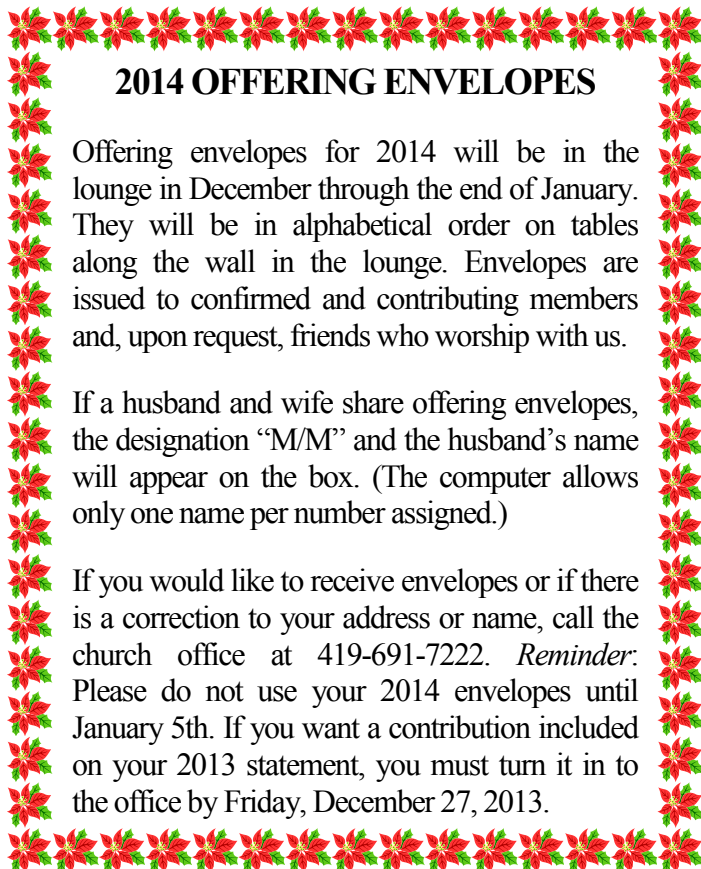
We have several First St. John Christmas ornaments still available. These were created to celebrate our 150th anniversary. These beautiful ornaments are 24K gold on brass and available in the church office for \$15 each. Stop by the office and see Toni if you'd like to buy one.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Some interest has been expressed in having a class for individuals wishing to become members of First St. John. This class will be held after the first of the year.

If you or someone you know would like to be 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. Even members who would like to review some of the basics of our Christian faith and Lutheran teachings are invited. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rayl.



2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2014 will be in the lounge in December through the end of January. They will be in alphabetical order on tables along the wall in the lounge. Envelopes are issued to confirmed and contributing members and, upon request, friends who worship with us.

If a husband and wife share offering envelopes, the designation "M/M" and the husband's name will appear on the box. (The computer allows only one name per number assigned.)

If you would like to receive envelopes or if there is a correction to your address or name, call the church office at 419-691-7222. *Reminder:* Please do not use your 2014 envelopes until January 5th. If you want a contribution included on your 2013 statement, you must turn it in to the office by Friday, December 27, 2013.

DECEMBER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



PROJECT: GIVE A BLESSING

Attention Students and Congregation:

We have an amazing opportunity to help an area family in need this Christmas. We ask for your support by providing gifts for these families. A Christmas tree filled with paper ornaments will soon be in the Narthex. On each ornament is a detailed gift recommendation, along with gender, to help you choose the appropriate gift.

Please tear off the front stapled ornament, then write your name and number on the other paper ornament and leave it on the tree.

Please return your gift by Monday, December 16th. It is our prayer that as a church we will do these blessings throughout our life as believers.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Blessings,
Jamie Blazeovich

*"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ."
- Frank McKibben*

Check out Romans 5:15-17 (NLT). This scripture talks about the awesome gift of Christ!

The Greatest Christmas Gift

Each year we are reminded that Christmas should not be just about giving and receiving presents. But if we really think about Christmas, it truly is all about gift giving! At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift ever given, by the greatest gift-giver of all, our wonderful God and Father!

FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES

November 19, 2013

President Keith Mullen opened the Tuesday, November 19, 2013 meeting. Pastor Rayl opened with a passage.

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

Sunday School -Jamie Blazevich stated they were thankful for volunteers and candy donations for Trunk or Treat and they surpassed their goal of 21...with 23 trunks! It was a beautiful day with over 100 children, many from the Dayschool. The youth sold pop at the chicken and ham dinner. Christmas play practice has begun. Dec. 1 & 8 practice will be the last two practices. On Dec. 15, they will present the play at the 10:15 service. It will be a narrative with singing. Operation Christmas Child is going well and will be open until Sunday the 24th. The East Toledo Family Center was contacted for a family to help at Christmas. By Design is still meeting and needs help with babysitting during the meeting time. They meet twice a month with the first meeting having "mom" talk and the second meeting having discussions on "what we need/want from life"-- a financial planner, discipline, fashion, healthy marriages, etc.

Elder's Report -Dick Haar went over the weddings for the remainder of the year and the sound board operations. They have looked into volunteers for Christmas Eve. A question was raised if we would have the TV feed during service in the JAM room. It will be looked into.

Property Mgmt. -Jim Sommers spoke on behalf of the trustees. The new finance area has been set up. The water system was weatherized and a valve was found in cemetery that was not working. This needs to be replaced in the New Year. There were drain problems found in the building. A patch has been put on the cast iron pipes. Gene Hagedorn stated we had exit lighting not working in the Sunday School area. These may be too old. Yesterday, we had a boiler room expansion tank leak and it affected the electronic panels. We have things back on line, but a part is needed for the boiler.

Treasurer/Finance Report -John Spoerl motioned we accept the report, Karen Holmes seconded. Motion

carried. The budget update was presented and, in order to break even, we need over \$10,000 a week until the end of December. The new budget for 2014 was presented. Questions were asked as to how we determine salaries for employees. A motion was made to accept the budget to present to the congregation by Kevin Ruedy, Karen Holmes seconded. Motion carried.

Dayschool -Julie Gallaher stated the school's Christmas programs are Dec. 16, 17, 18, and 19 at 7 pm. Needs help with the sound board, elders to open and operate elevator. Financially, the school is fine. They had many families pay in full for tuition instead of paying monthly. Dayschool teachers will be getting raises in January as they have not had raises in many years. Drainage needs to be fixed and the play ground moved soon.

Pastor's Report -Pastor says thanks for the support he has received while getting adjusted. A grave side service for Mrs, Counterman will be this Saturday. Transfers in: Tamera Huguely from St. John Lutheran in Williston and transferring out is Kevin Fouty to Our Savior Lutheran in Great Falls, MT. LuAnn Spoerl motioned we accept these transfers, Jeff Ladd seconded, motion carried.. Three baptisms were performed in the last month. Pastor presented the idea of a Cradle Roll with the church keeping the parents up to date on church activities before their child is ready for JAM. Homebound Service is going well. The group is trying to formalize the program with a procedural book so everyone can understand what to do. ID badges with pictures will follow. Acolytes will be helping with baptisms by holding the book, and by giving and taking the offering plates at the altar. New robes are in for the acolytes. A new members class will be held in January.

Old Business -Karen Holmes reported the personal needs pantry has a fundraiser at Bob Evens on Navarre on Dec. 11. Volunteers are pouring in to help with the pantry. They will meet on Dec. 2 to discuss what to do next. Thrivent will match some funds. The Alpha training group wants more time to understand how it will benefit our church. They will meet with Pastor Beth Giller who has already been through and used the program.

(continued on pg. 7)