



First St. John Journal



Volume 27, Issue 4

April, 2014

Where in the world would you like to go if you had the chance? If money were no object and the air fare, hotel costs, meals, and spending money were all being provided, what destination would you pick? Such an opportunity does not come often, so you would not want to squander it.

Think carefully. Would you visit the family you don't see often enough and treat them to the time of their lives? Would you go to all the exotic faraway places you have heard about all your life and only dreamed of seeing? How about a trip around the world, or time spent on a quiet, warm South Seas island? It is your choice.

Now that you are thinking about travel, let's go off on a wilder tangent. Suppose Jules Vern's fantasy was realized and a method of time travel has been developed. If you could choose any moment in history to travel back to see, what would it be? What about traveling back to Biblical times? What would you pick? Creation itself? Moses dividing the Red Sea or descending from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments?

What about the events that took place during the time of Jesus? Would you want to be in the crowd when Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount? How about the feeding of the five thousand, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, being on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter and James and John, or in the Upper Room for the Last Supper? Which of us would pass up the opportunity to stand with Mary, Peter and John in the garden on Easter morning to look inside the empty tomb or be greeted by the resurrected Lord for the first time? Any of these would certainly send your faith into orbit!

I wonder how many of us, though, would choose to join the crowds outside Jerusalem at the foot of the cross to witness Jesus' crucifixion? Perhaps this would be too difficult, too painful.

Yet, to look into those eyes, to see that face, to hear those words, "Father, forgive them!" and, unlike that ancient crowd, to know that his words were meant for us— to believe they carry the promise of new life from the living Lord— what a faith enriching moment!

Well, in truth, we don't need a time machine to visit these last two events. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ are part of our lives every day through our baptisms. Remember the Apostle Paul's words – "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:3-4)

Each day, we can and must return to the cross and the empty tomb in our baptismal remembrances. Life is empty if we do not see the cross. Life is too large a cross to bear if the empty tomb is not there. Whenever our sin and failures beat us down, the cross shines bright with God's forgiveness and acceptance, and God's perfect love already given and proven (read Ephesians 2:1-5). Whenever our confidence wavers and hope begins to slip away, the empty tomb proclaims that victory is assured even though it is hidden for the moment beneath a veil of pain or sorrow. Because the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work to save everyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ (read Ephesians 1:18-23).

So here is your chance to visit the cross and empty tomb. Don't miss the opportunity. God has already paid for the trip. Come and follow Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord. Take him at his word: "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved." Don't wait to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime offer. And as an added benefit, you will receive an eternal frequent flyer bonus.

APRIL ELDER SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 2

Linda Yenrick
Bill Nelson

7:45 am

6th Eric Johnson
Laurie Witt

10:15 am

Al Collins
Bill Nelson

Wednesday, April 9

Darold Henninger
Mike Winslow

13th Jeff Smith Dick Haar
Jason Blazeovich Jeff Ladd

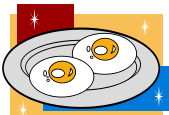
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Volunteers Needed

20th Darold Henninger Linda Yenrick
Mike Winslow Bill Nelson

27th Tom Eppard Eric Johnson
Al Collins Laurie Witt

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you use this program, you need to re-enroll after April 1st to continue earning rewards for First St. John church or school. Please go on-line to www.kroger.com and click on SIGN IN and follow the directions. To enroll in this program, please go on-line to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and click on "Columbus, OH" and then click on "Enroll." Thanks for participating.



MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Breakfast Fellowship will meet Saturday, April 5th at 8:00 a.m. at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.



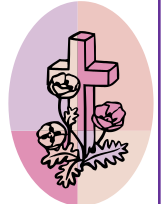
ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Our annual rummage sale will be Thursday, May 1st and Friday, May 2nd. Proceeds from the sale will benefit local benevolences.

If you want to donate items to sell, you can start bringing them to the gym on the top floor of the educational building on Wednesday, April 23rd. If you will need the elevator to bring your items to the gym, please try to wait until Monday, April 28th to bring them, if at all possible. Please place items on the gym stage, not on the Dayschool lunch tables.

We need many volunteers to help set up, run the sale, clean up, and other duties. If you can help, call Wanda Rice at 419-691-8328.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday, April 13

7:45 am — Worship
10:15 am — Worship
(no Sunday School)

Maundy Thursday, April 17

12:00 pm — Worship - Chapel
7:00 pm — Worship - Church

Good Friday, April 18

12:00 pm — Worship
7:00 pm — Worship

Easter Sunday, April 20

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

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

3-23-14 *Ryder Allen Schuffenecker*,
born December 30, 2013 to
Eric and Brandy (Howard)
Schuffenecker. Sponsors are
Craig Schuffenecker and
Andrea Warner.

Marriages None

Deaths

3-8-14 Margie Heninger

Transfers to First St. John

New Members received: Jerry, Karen, and
Amanda Dickens and Thomas Vaculik.

Transfers from First St. John

Christopher Marsh to St. Mark Lutheran,
Toledo, OH.

CONFIRMATION NEWS



On April 6th the 8th graders will give their faith testimonies and answer questions from the elders during the 9:00 hour. After late service, a brunch will follow for the 8th graders and their immediate families. Confirmation practice is Sat., April 26th (time TBA). Confirmation and first communion is Sunday, April 27th at the 10:15 service. Pictures will be taken following the service.



MONTHLY MINISTRY FOCUS

Each year, First St. John's Women's group does many mission projects supporting local and worldwide organizations. To expand the reach of the Women's group in 2014, these outreach projects will be shared with the congregation. Each project has one month of emphasis where information about the ministry will be shared during worship, sometimes by individuals representing the ministry. Special envelopes are in the pews to give everyone the opportunity to respond with a donation of support.

Our April ministry focus is The Daughter Project. This organization helps victims recover from the trauma of sex trafficking and works to help prevent others from being trafficked. Holistic healing services are provided in an extremely safe, home-like environment to victims who have been freed from sex traffickers. Caring and competent professionals as well as volunteers provide abuse and addiction counseling, medical care, educational services, and spiritual mentoring. On Sunday, April 6th, Jeff Wilbarger, Director of The Daughter Project, will join us during our worship services to share information about this vital effort to help these victims.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday, June 23rd at 6:00 pm. This year's theme is "Weird Animals—Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind." God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures . . . including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd— nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

It won't be long before we will start making our backdrops and other decorations for VBS. If you can help with painting, drawing, etc., we would love to have your talents. More details to come, so check your next newsletter and bulletins.

VBS is for ages 3 through fifth grade. Look for registration information soon. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222 or cedir@firststjohn.com Please pray and ask God what HE might want YOU to help with. We need many volunteers for this wonderful event!

CHURCH CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

A committee is being formed to review and update First St. John's constitution. This is our first step toward calling a new pastor. We will meet every other week beginning after Easter. If you want to serve on this committee, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 or the church office at 419-691-7222.

MEMORIALS

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Sharon Bond by Bob & Sherri Haar.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Grace Heninger by Patricia Pudlicki and Cheryl Smith.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Margie Heninger by Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We will not have Sunday School on April 13th (Palm Sunday) or April 20th (Easter). We will resume classes on Sunday, April 27th at 9:00 am.

QUILTING GROUP NEWS

This past year, the Quilters Group at First St. John donated several of their handmade quilts to the Bed Ministry of First Presbyterian Church located in Monroe, MI. This ministry gives beds and bedding to needy families who cannot afford proper bedding for their young children. Each child also receives a stuffed animal to help them sleep at night. This letter of thanks was received from Pat Batesta, the director of the program.

“Dear Ladies Quilting Group– Elinor, the children and I want to thank all of you for the precious quilts you made for our bed ministry. When the beds and bags of bedding are delivered to the children the excitement and joy on their faces make all we do worthwhile. Thanks again for your special part in our ministry for God’s little ones.”

Our FSJ Quilters gather on Mondays from January through March in the lounge. Quilts are also shared with Lutheran World Relief and other local and national agencies that distribute them to those who would not have a warm cover without these lovingly made quilts. Thanks to our Quilters and may God continue to bless their fine ministry.

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Our Dayschool has begun a new fundraising program called Scrip-- a no-selling program that enables you to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks and credit cards. When you purchase gift cards from our Dayschool at face value, our coordinator orders the cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The price difference becomes an instant rebate for our school, anywhere from 1 to 16% of the card’s value! Order forms are available in the lounge and Narthex. All you need to do is complete the form and send cash or check to cover the gift card value to the church office. Gift cards usually will arrive about one week after the order due date.

Great Lakes Scrip Center offers gift cards for over 300 of the country’s biggest brands, including Amazon, Applebee’s, Arby’s, Bass Pro Shops, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chili’s, Circle K, Dillard’s, Family Christian Stores, Family Video, The Gap, Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabric, Kohl’s, Meijer, Menard’s, Panera Bread, Pottery Barn, Rave Cinemas, and Starbucks. To view all store brands that have gift cards available, go on-line to www.glscrip.com

Our next order deadline is April 1st.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

When Jesus compared the stewardship of the Pharisees with that of the widow, he observed, “For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had.” (Mark 12:44). In many ways, giving is a statement of faith in the eternal goodness of God. Consider a little Brazilian boy deep in the Amazon who knocked on the missionary’s door one day. He was holding a large fish in his hands. He said, “Pastor, you taught us what tithing is. Here is my tithe.” The missionary thanked him and said, “If this is your tithe, one of the ten you have caught, where are the other nine fish?” The boy beamed and said, “Oh, they are still in the river. I’m going to go catch them now.” That is truly a stewardship-life defined and motivated by the challenging faith in those five simple words: “God is able to provide.”



FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

First St. John Lutheran Church Updates:

Souper Bowl of Caring Final Tally

The Souper Bowl of Caring – Last year we collected 345 canned goods and \$240.76. THIS YEAR - 517 canned goods and over \$630 were collected and donated to LSS!!! Amazing what can be accomplished when we work together. Great job! A big shout out to Kroger's who allowed us to use their shopping carts to collect all the canned goods.

On March 16, the 7th and 8th graders helped transport all the canned goods to LSS. We had a representative that gave a presentation, and then they sorted all the donated canned goods. Afterward, we had lunch at Wendy's. There were 21 of us that went, which calculated into 40 service hours for LSS. Thank you to all who drove and helped!

The MOM2MOM sale was awesome. Great turn out. Thank you to all who donated their time! We couldn't have done it without you. We sent out a survey through Survey Monkey to all the vendors. By Design, our Mom's Group, would like to thank all the church members who donated their time the day before and the day of the sale! Your volunteerism is so appreciated.

On Sunday, March 23rd from 2:00 – 4:00 we held our joint bowling event for church and Dayschool families at Penny Jo's Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. Food, fun and fellowship were enjoyed by all the families who attended.

An Easter egg hunt for JAM and the Dayschool will be held on April 6th during the Sunday School hour. First we will describe the Resurrection Eggs, then we'll have the egg hunt, bag decorating, and cookie decorating stations before coming back together for a VBS video preview.



If anyone would like to donate pre-filled eggs OR items we can fill some of last year's eggs with, that would be wonderful.

Over 500 postcards advertising our Holy Week Services will be going out to our members and Dayschool families.

Confirmation is April 27th. The 8th graders will also participate in their first communion that day. The confirmands and their parents will commune at the altar, then the rest of the congregation will commune with continuous communion.

On April 6th the 8th graders will be giving their faith testimonies and answer questions from the elders during the 9:00 a.m. hour. After the late service, a brunch will follow for the 8th graders and their immediate families.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.: 8th graders meeting with Council members
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Celebratory Brunch with Parents

I will be going to the Synod Wide Assembly on May 16 – May 18 at Kalahri.

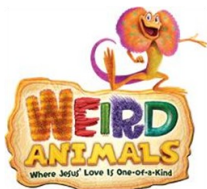
SAVE THE DATE!!!

Oregon Fest – May 18, 2014. We will once again walk in the parade. More information to come.

(continued on page 6)

FROM OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S DESK

(continued from page 5)



**Vacation Bible School – Monday,
June 23 – Thursday, June 26.**

***Weird Animals - Where Jesus'
Love is One-of-a-Kind***

The theme for VBS is: God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd—nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

Look for registration information soon. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222. Hope to see you there!

We will start to craft our backdrops and other decorations needed for the church during this VBS week. If you are interested in helping with painting, drawing, etc., we would love to have your talents. More details to come! Please pray and ask God what HE might want YOU to help with. We need many volunteers for this wonderful event!

JESUS AND ME 1st – 6th SCHEDULE

April	6		Easter Egg Hunt
	13	Palm Sunday	No Class—Break
	20	Easter	No Class—Break
	27		Big Things With God — God's Big Plan for You

JESUS AND ME PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

April	6		Easter Egg Hunt
	13	Palm Sunday	No Class—Break
	20	Easter	No Class—Break
	27		How Jesus Loves Us — I Am Special To Jesus

ANNUAL CARD PARTY



The 23rd annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 8th at noon. Tallies are \$8. For reservations call either the church office (419-691-7222) or Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. The elevator will be available. We need door prizes, either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. Boxes are in the lounge and the Narthex for depositing these donations. Everyone (men, too!) is welcome to join us for a fun day.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

Now that we can finally GET to the cemetery, please try to clean off any Christmas decorations from the graves before Easter on April 20th. Thank you.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Please don't forget our ongoing ministry to feed the hungry in our community. All types of non-perishable food items are welcomed. Please place your donations (no glass jars, please) in the Feed Your Neighbor bins in the Narthex under the main bulletin board (the two right-hand bins) or in the bin in the lounge underneath the side tables. Thank you.

MILITARY SERVICE NOTES



Here are the names and addresses of members, family, & friends of First St. John who serve in the military. You can send cards or packages, and remember to pray for them, too!

Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson
44425 Scobee
California, MD 20619

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

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

Lindsey Rowland
No Current Address

On the first day of the week, at early dawn [the women] came to the tomb, taking spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Luke 24:1-2

Dear Friends,

Easter – so much to celebrate. Death is conquered and God’s plan for salvation is signed, sealed, and delivered. Focusing on the resurrection of Jesus is a favorite topic at the Dayschool. We have told the children a great deal about Jesus and now they can tell us the good news as we sit around the cross at our Easter celebrations. Out of the mouths of babes we hear how much He loves us, exactly what He did for us and why, and about the assurance of our heavenly home. All adults present are awed by the children’s ability to share their faith. The purpose of your Dayschool is to plant these truths in the hearts of young children. We want them to know without a doubt that He is their Lord! Thank you all for believing in the importance of this ministry.

Attention Prayer Buddies: SAVE THE DATE —On Sunday, May 18th a service recognizing our kindergarten children and their successful completion of the school year will take place. After the service the children will be introduced to their prayer buddy. Thank you, Prayer Buddies, for keeping these children in your constant prayers. I know how much it means to the families of our kindergarten students to know someone is praying for their child. Our Father tells us over and over that prayer is the best thing we can do for each other, so thank you for lifting these children and their families up to Him. You are a witness to many!

First St. John Dayschool has started a new fundraising program called Scrip. Scrip is a no-selling program where you can pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from First St. John Dayschool at face value, and our coordinator orders the cards from Great Lakes Scrip center at a reduced price. The price difference is an instant rebate for our school. Great Lakes Scrip offers over 300 of the country’s biggest brands, including Meijer, Walmart, Target, Bob Evans, Burger King, Circle K, BP Gas, Speedway, Lowe’s, Home Depot and more. This is an ongoing program

with gift card orders being sent in every other week. Cards usually arrive about three days after an order is placed. Please consider how you could use gift cards to help our school.

Attention all Spring Cleaners: If you have any ribbon, rick-rack, material, doilies, old buttons, sequins, beads, or the like; you can drop them off at the Dayschool office and I will find a good use for them. The children are quite good at creating masterpieces from scraps! A special thanks to those who already think of us often.

Continue to spread the word about our school and our registration. Some classes are already full with waiting lists. If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to come, see, and experience the quality, Christ-filled educational program we have to offer. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers. It is truly a blessing to all involved.

May God continue to guide and bless us all.
Barb Shellhammer

MARKET DAY NEW CATALOG AVAILABLE

Help feed your family and support our school at the same time by participating in this monthly fundraiser (even in the summer) that offers restaurant quality groceries you can pick up here at First St. John. April’s features include: vegetable orzo blend, honey BBQ chicken wings, and soft pretzel breadsticks.

Market Day catalogs are in the Narthex and the lounge so you can see the food that is offered. Order using the sheet in the catalog or on-line at www.marketday.com Click on “New to Market Day” and then “Register Now” to begin. Select our school using the school’s account number: 30777.

April orders must be turned in by Friday, April 11th (hard copy) or on-line by 11:00 pm on Saturday, April 12th. Delivery date will be Friday, April 25th from 4:15 to 5:15 pm in the basement of the educational building.

First St. John Prayer Chain

(as of March 26, 2014)

Crisis Prayer List

This is for those who need prayers in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the "Chronic" list after 1 month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is notified of special circumstances:

David and Cindy (no last name given)

Harold Heidmann

Calvin Nelson

Kim Roach

Dianne Schumaker

Richard Trybula

John Wagner

Chronic Prayer List

This is for those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer, medical struggles and recovery and personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after 3 months unless one of the prayer chain contacts is notified of continuing circumstances:

George Ackerman

Fritz Babcock

Jordyn Beckhusen

Karen Burris

Baby Camille

Gail Chaffee

Sally Christianson

Dakota (no last name given)

Jane Doe

Lily Georgeson

Marvin Gladieux

Larry Grant

Bob & Debbie Hecklinger

Sophie LeDuc

Jeff McCawley

George "Skip" McCullough

Jeanette Miller

Christopher Molnar

Jessica Mueller

Charlie Ohlson

Demetra Pender

Rita Riegle

Cindy Roecker

Maggie Van Horn

Tom Walls

Candy Webster

Terry Williams

Joyce Yard

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts know if there are individuals who could be moved off.

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



PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED



We are now accepting donations of hygiene items for the personal needs pantry. Items needed include dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, deodorant, adult and children's shampoo, laundry soap, fabric softener sheets, body lotion, body soap, adult and children's toothbrushes, tampons, sanitary pads, bandaids and toothpaste. Please deposit your donated items in the far left pull-out drawer next to the Feed Your Neighbor bin in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or in the bright green bin in the lounge. Remember, monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

(continued from page 10)

New Business - Jeff Ladd questioned the noise on the boilers. Property Management stated this was normal. On April 21, at 6:30 PM, First St. John will host the Toledo Lutheran Dartball banquet with about 125 - 150 people attending.

Meeting was motioned to be adjourned by Mike Winslow, seconded by Karen Holmes. The motion carried. The meeting was closed by Keith Mullen and Pastor Rayl led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Folk
Council Secretary

FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES - March 18, 2014

President Keith Mullen opened the Tuesday, March 18, 2014 meeting with Pastor Rayl giving the devotion via a video presentation.

Secretary's Minutes- Minutes from the February meeting were read. A correction was noted to change Jane Neal to Ginny Nissen who will be assisting Bill Caldwell's committee. A motion was made by Chris Hunsaker to accept the minutes. Mike Winslow seconded, motion carried.

Sunday School- Souper Bowl of Caring totals: 517 canned goods and over \$630 donated to LSS!!! In 2011 we were impressed with 80 canned goods. On March 16, the 7th and 8th graders helped transport the canned goods to LSS. A representative gave a presentation and then the 7th and 8th graders stocked the shelves with our donated canned goods. There were 21 of us that went, which calculated into 40 service hours for LSS.

The MOM2MOM sale had a great turn out. Thank you to all who donated their time! We couldn't have done it without you. By Design met today and discussed the sale. They would like to thank all the church members who donated their time the day before and the day of!

On Sunday, March 23 from 2:00 – 4:00 there is a joint bowling event for church and Dayschool at Penny Jo's Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. For \$5 individuals can enjoy pizza, pop and bowling. We will have an Easter egg hunt for JAM and the Dayschool during the Sunday School hour on April 6th. We need people to donate prefilled eggs OR items that we can fill some of last year's eggs with. We will have an opening describing the Resurrection Eggs, egg hunt, bag decorating, and cookie decorating stations and then come back together for a VBS video preview.

We will once again send out postcards advertising our Holy Week Services.

Confirmation is April 27th. The 8th graders will be confirmed and will participate in their first communion. They and their parents will commune at the altar, and the rest of the congregation will commune with continuous communion. On April 6th the 8th graders will give their faith testimonies and answer questions from the elders during the 9:00 a.m. hour, followed by a brunch after the 10:15 service for the 8th graders and their immediate families.

Jamie will be going to the Synod Wide Assembly on May 16 – May 18 at Kalahri.

SAVE THE DATE!!! Oregon Fest – May 18th. We will once again walk in the parade. More information to come.

VBS – Monday, June 23 – Thursday, June 26. “Weird Animals VBS - Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind” The theme for VBS is: God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd—nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

Elder's Report - Bill Nelson reported that Lenten services were going well. Another wedding was added with 8 for the year. Pastor stated one wedding will take place in the chapel.

Property Mgmt. - We had Norman Roofing out to take care of some shingles. They will try to come out and caulk some shingles down when the weather warms up. Furniture needs to be put in the new business office.

Treasurer/Finance Report - A motion was made to accept the distribution of local benevolence fund of \$800 to Personal Needs Pantry, \$1000 to Luther Home of Toledo, \$750 to Salem Lutheran, and \$750 to Lutheran Social Services. Mike Winslow motioned we proceed with these donations, John Spoerl seconded, motion passed.

A professional development form has been drafted in the event a parishioner wishes to attend an event, seminar or learning experience; the church may pay for them. John Spoerl motioned we accept the reports, Karen Holmes seconded, motion passed.

Dayschool - The theme of Lutheran Schools Week, March 2 – 8, is *To Tell the Story*. As we move toward Easter Barb's plan is to put together a school newspaper sharing their stories—an *Extra, Extra, Read All About It* paper that shouts the good news of the gospel.

Our second annual MOM 2 MOM SALE was a success. Hopefully, this fundraiser will be our most successful as the years continue.

Our Open House was held on Tuesday, March 4. Registrations from those children already enrolled and the children of the congregation have been coming in steadily. *(continued on next page)*

FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES - March 18, 2014 (continued)

Please help us spread the word about our school and that registration has begun, and especially our summer program. Imagination Station, Nature's Nursery, Botanical Gardens, and the Toledo Library are among the list of presentations scheduled for our school.

Sunday, May 18th we will have a service recognizing our kindergarten children and their successful completion of the school year. Following the service is a breakfast where the children will be introduced to their prayer buddy. What a blessing it has been to watch this program unfold.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be Thursday, April 3 and Friday, April 4.

Club's Choice - We are again selling Club Choice Products to raise funds for our school. Order forms will be available in the office.

The Dayschool Board has agreed on a plan to make up days the school was closed because of snow days. These make-up days are beyond the five calamity days provided for by law. As of now, the school year will be extended one week. The last day of school is now Thursday, June 5.

Scrip - First St. John Dayschool has started a new fundraising program called Scrip-- a no-selling program where you can pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from the school at face value and our coordinator orders the cards from Great Lakes scrip center at a reduced price. The price difference is an instant rebate for our school. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including Meijer, Walmart, Target, Bob Evans, Burger King, Circle K, BP Gas, Speedway, Lowe's, Home Depot and more. Our next order due date is Tuesday, April 1st. This will be an ongoing bi-monthly fundraiser.

Market Day - Help feed your family and support our Dayschool at the same time by participating in this monthly fundraiser (we'll have pick-up days every month, even in the summer) that offers restaurant quality groceries you can pick up here at First St. John. Market Day offers a large variety of foods such as lower calorie meals, fish, chicken, pork, vegetables, pasta, both gluten and peanut free items, as well as desserts and pizza. Market Day catalogs are available in the Narthex and the Church office. You can order using the sheet in the catalog or on-line at www.marketday.com

Click on "New to Market Day" and then "Register Now" to begin. Select our school by using the school's account number: 30777. This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help provide resources for our students, including a new outdoor playspace. Up to 20% of every order supports our school. Our next pick-up date is Fri., April 25th from 4:15 to 5:15 pm in the Youth Room in the educational building's basement. If you can't make that time, you can use the Pick-Up Locator function on the Market Day website to find another location that better suits your schedule.

Looking Ahead - First Annual LEAF Festival on October 11th. Join us and "LEAF" an imprint on a child's life~Providing a Loving Educational Atmosphere in Faith. We are seeking volunteers to help with this event. / Trike-A-Thon in early September / A group is writing the charter for the Dayschool. / Looking into purchasing a software system for the Dayschool called Pro Care. More info to come.

Pastor's Report- The process for call of a new pastor will be discussed with the new software package. The preschool software also will show if a family has a church.

Pastor is requesting some vacation time for May 20-June 1. A replacement is already set to fill in. An on-call pastor will also be available.

Eight weddings in the works and a possible four baptisms and four new members—Jerry, Karen, and Amanda Dickens, and Thomas Vaculick are our new members. A motion was made by LuAnn Spoerl to accept these new members, Jeff Ladd second, motion passed. Transfers out include Chris Marsh to St. Mark Lutheran on Woodville. Dick Haar motioned we accept the transfer out, Mike Winslow seconded, motion carried.

Margie Heninger passed away on March 8 and was buried on March 11. A memorial service will be planned for her at a later date.

The Gideons will be here on March 30.

Homebound communion guidelines have been written. More people are needed for this committee. If you know of a homebound person who would like the ministry to visit them, please let the church know.

Old Business – none