
☘ First St. John Journal ☘

Volume 27, Issue 3

March, 2014

*Now Jesus asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?" — MARK 8:27*

You have either read or heard it before, I'm certain. Some say He never existed. Everything written about Him is only a fable or a myth.

Others say: Yes, He did live. That fact is so well documented and authenticated historically that no person of sound mind can doubt it. But, he was not divine. He was a human being like every other one who walked the earth. He was born as we are and died as we do. No one knows exactly where His grave is, but it is somewhere over near Jerusalem.

Others agree Jesus was a great religious and moral leader. He stood in a relationship with God in which no one else has ever stood, and He showed love for His fellow human beings as no other person has ever done. His shining purity, indomitable courage in telling the truth, and willingness to sacrifice and suffer for others have set an unattained ideal for all generations. His example is one to follow in making the world a better place for all people to live.

Still others say the Biblical record is true in witnessing to the unique nature of Jesus as the Savior of the world. His words shall endure though heaven and earth pass away. But in their hearts and by the lives they live, they do not speak this truth. Jesus is not the main character in their daily life. They never mention His name except in swearing and cursing. They do not allow the decisions they make to be informed or empowered by Jesus' guiding presence. They live only as they please and as the world directs.

Does it seem unusual the Son of God came in such a manner that opinions about Him can be so divided? We would rather think when God chose to send His Son as the Savior that it all would have been crystal clear. But the problem is not with Jesus; rather, it is our perspective that is clouded and overcast by our human sinfulness. *(continued on page 8)*

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!



We will move our clocks forward one hour (spring ahead!) on Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 a.m. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 8th.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERVICES

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. We will begin the season with worship, including the traditional Imposition of Ashes from which the day derives its name. *Two worship opportunities will be offered at noon in the Chapel and again at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.* On the additional Wednesdays during Lent, we will continue with special worship services at the same times and locations.

Our journey through Lent will center around the theme, "Restored In Christ." The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so we can be restored by Him through the Cross. As we gather for worship on Wednesdays, our time will focus on an event in the Lenten story that opens our hearts and lives so we can take a good, hard look at an aspect of ourselves that expresses this element of brokenness. Together, we will come to a deeper understanding of the ways that God's complete love, poured out through the Cross of Christ, leads to restoration and renewal. Together, we will grow in our understanding of what it ultimately means to live as "new creations in Christ."

Make plans now to set aside time for this rejuvenating and empowering Lenten journey to the Cross and into the Resurrection light.

ELDER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>(Wed.)</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
2nd	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich		Dick Haar Jeff Ladd
5th	<i>(Ash Wednesday)</i> Tom Eppard Al Collins		
9th	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow		Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson
12th	Eric Johnson Laurie Witt		
16th	Tom Eppard Al Collins		Eric Johnson Laurie Witt
19th	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd		
23rd	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd		Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich
26th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich		
30th	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson		Darold Henninger Mike Winslow

COMING SOON: ALL-DAUGHTER BANQUET

Join us for our All-Daughter Banquet on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:00 pm in the gym (elevator available). Wonderful entertainment and great food! Reservations begin in April. Gentlemen, we need your help, too. Lots of fun for all, so mark your calendars!

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

2-2-14 *Lillian Kay Box*, born July 26, 2013 to Jason and Erika (Kayser) Box. Sponsors are Kristen Kayser, Kirk Kayser, and Bob Nowacki.

2-16-14 *Mallory Grace Wineland*, born August 17, 2007 to Ryan and Jaime (Hollabaugh) Wineland. Sponsors are Mike & Holly Szuch.

Emerson Rose Wineland, born July 30, 2011 to Ryan and Jaime (Hollabaugh) Wineland. Sponsors are Erik and Kim Wineland.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

None.

Transfers to First St. John

None.

Transfers from First St. John

Melissa, Hannah, and Noah Lang to St. John Lutheran in Stony Ridge. Jody and Sierra Bronowski to St. Mark Lutheran on Woodville, Rd. in Toledo.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
MARCH 21st**

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

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.

If you can donate a 9x13 dessert to serve at least 12 people, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the clipboard in the lounge. We also need door prizes, either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. Boxes are in the lounge and Narthex for depositing these donations. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun day.



REBECCA CIRCLE MEETING CHANGE

In March, we will meet Saturday, March 8th at 11:30 am. Please mark your calendars. Thanks!

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our next gathering is Saturday, March 1st at 8:00 am at Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave. Come for breakfast, a short devotion and fellowship. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 to RSVP so he can arrange for seating. Also let him know if you need transportation.



FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT!

Join us Sunday, March 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. EVERYONE is invited for fun, food, and fellowship! Even if you can't bowl, come out to say hello, hang out, and have some fun. Cost is \$5 per person. Please fill out the slip below by March 17th and either mail it or drop it in the offering plate so we know how many lanes to reserve and how much food to have. You can also call the church at 419-691-7222 or email: office@firststjohn.com

Yes! I/we will attend Bowling Night on March 23rd.

Names: _____

FIRST ST. JOHN ALTAR GUILD EASTER FLOWER SALE



It's time to buy flowers that will decorate the church at Easter. The price is \$9.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plant. An order form will be in the bulletin for the month of March, and someone will take orders in the Narthex on March 30th.

Please complete the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH 43605. Please make checks payable to: *First St. John Altar Guild*. Payment must accompany orders.

The deadline for ordering is Mon., March 31st.

No. of plants @ \$9.00 each: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

Type of plant(s): _____
(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

In Honor of (Living): _____

First St. John Prayer Chain

Crisis Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers in urgent matters such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the chronic list after one month unless a prayer chain contact is notified:

**Dakota (no last name given)
Joyce Yard**

Chronic Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles and recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after three months unless a prayer chain contact has been notified:

**George Ackerman
Jordyn Beckhusen
Karen Burris
Baby Camille
Gail Chaffee
Annette Frybarger
Lily Georgeson
Mark Gingrich
Marvin Gladieux
Larry Grant
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger
Margie Heninger
Connie Koch
Sophie LeDuc
Jeff McCawley
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar
Jessica Mueller
Charlie Ohlson
Demetra Pender
Cindy Roecker
LuAnn Spoerl
Tom Walls
Candy Webster
Terry Williams**

**** IMPORTANT **** Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed in the next column-know if individuals can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Coordinator, 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

MARCH ZUMBA CLASSES

We will not meet on Tuesday, March 4th because of the Dayschool Open House that evening. We begin our March classes on Thursday, March 6th at 6:30 pm and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays in March at 6:30 pm in the gym. Join us!



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
1 Surf Way #113
Monterey, CA 93940

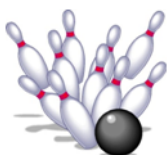
FROM JAMIE'S DESK

With Lent in full swing, it is important to remember why we have chosen to either give something up or to do something we normally don't do. This Lenten season, I challenge all of us to consider the motivation behind our Lenten disciplines. Is it something to be endured? Or is it something that will sustain and nourish us through this season, become part of our regular spiritual practices, or sustain us as we continue our lifelong spiritual journeys? For the reward granted by our Father who sees in secret will be a deepened and enriched relationship with Him. After all, that's what really matters.



Thank you to all who donated to our Souper Bowl of Caring. A final tally will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Family Bowling Night 2013 was such a success that we will have our 5th Annual Family Bowling Event on Sunday, March 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Penny Jo's Eastern Lanes on Woodville Rd. This is a great way to join in fellowship with the families of the Dayschool and our church families. See the article in this newsletter on page 3 for more details and to RSVP.



JESUS AND ME PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE:

March	2	Growing for Jesus — Working for Jesus
	9	TBA
	16	Preparing for Easter — First Communion
	23	The Good News of Easter — The Triumphant Entry of Jesus
	30	The Good News of Easter — Jesus Dies for Our Sins

JESUS AND ME 1st – 6th SCHEDULE

March	2	Big Things With God — Esther Helps God's People
	9	TBA
	16	Preparing for Easter — First Communion
	23	Good News of Easter — The Triumphant Entry of Jesus
	30	Good News of Easter — Jesus Dies for Our Sins

7th GRADE CATECHISM SCHEDULE

March	2	Ten Commandments	Eighth Commandment
	9		Faith Testimony
	16	Ten Commandments	Ninth Commandment
	23	Ten Commandments	Tenth Commandment
	30		Choir — Adult / Council

8th GRADE CATECHISM SCHEDULE

March	2	Baptism	Sacrament of Holy Baptism
	9		Faith Testimony
	16	Confession	Confession / Office of the Keys
	23		Faith Testimony Working Class
	30	The Lord's Supper	Sacrament of the Altar

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

This is why the fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God's promise arrives as pure gift. That's the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that's reading the story backward. He is our faith father. -- Romans 4:16

I am so thankful to you for your support of the Dayschool. Your prayers, donations, and kind words lift us up. I cannot tell you how much it means to have *heartfelt* understanding about the importance of teaching young children about their Father, their Savior, and the Spirit that is present in their hearts. The daily conversations among these children are priceless; it is evident He is drawing them ever closer. Sharing their gospel stories with you will be a focus this month. The theme of Lutheran Schools Week is *To Tell the Story*, and the children are well equipped to do just that. My plan is to put together a school newspaper sharing their stories. *An Extra, Extra, Read All About It* kind of paper that shouts the good news of the gospel. Our year has gone quickly, and watching them grow in their spirit, brain, and body is so joyful and such a blessing to all involved. Thank you again for believing in the value of planting seeds of faith in His children.

Attention all Prayer Buddies: SAVE THE DATE Sunday, May 18th. A service recognizing our kindergarten children and their successful completion of the school year will take place that day. Following the service the children will be introduced to their prayer buddies—an exciting day for all involved. You are a witness to many!

The Dayschool has been raising funds this year to create a new outdoor play space. The Market Day program is a fundraiser that we pray will help us accomplish this goal. See page 8 for lots more information on this delicious opportunity!

We are expecting a great turn out at our second annual Mom 2 Mom sale. This fundraiser will support two ministries of the congregation—the Dayschool and By Design (a gathering of young women that occurs twice monthly to discuss how Christ moves in their lives). This sale will be a great way to help the community find reasonably priced items they need for their young children, help moms

make a little money by cleaning out their unneeded children's items, and raise funds for ministry! We are excited and prayerful that all goes well.

An Open House giving the community an opportunity to see our school and all we have to offer will be Tuesday, March 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Registrations from those children already enrolled and the children of the congregation have been coming in steadily. Please help us spread the word about our school and the registration process. My personal prayer is that we have a strong enrollment by June. If you know anyone who is looking for a quality Christian school, please encourage them to come, see, and experience the awesome program we have to offer. Many of you have already sent families our way, and we appreciate it. Word of mouth has always been the best advertisement for the Dayschool.

We will once again join together with the congregation for a bowling outing on Sunday, March 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. If you will attend this event, please reach out and make a connection with one of the families from the Dayschool. May God continue to guide and bless us all.

In Him,
Barb Shellhammer

“DINNER WITH FRIENDS”

Dinner With Friends is back in March. Join us on Thursday, March 13th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. This month, eight young adults from the new Abundant Life Together ministry will be joining us for a taco bar. Come on out to have dinner with your friends from First St. John and to welcome these young people and learn about their ministry. Please RSVP using the slip below if you want to attend. See you soon!

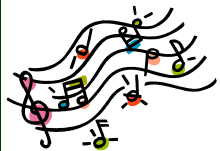
*Yes, I will attend Dinner With Friends
on Thursday, March 13th*

Name: _____

Phone: _____

INVITATION FROM PASTOR RAYL

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will speak at the 103rd Annual Meeting of Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio on Monday, March 24th at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. There is a dinner meeting beginning at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm). The cost is \$25 per person, which includes the meal and a contribution supporting the ministry of LSSNWO. If you would like to attend and take this opportunity to meet and hear from the first woman Bishop of the ELCA, please RSVP to Pastor Rayl by Monday, March 10th. He will be attending and would like to fill a table from First St. John.



FREE CHOIR CONCERT AT FIRST ST. JOHN

Don't miss this special concert by The VOICES OF OHIO on Saturday, March 29th at 7:00 pm. Our own Laurie Witt sings with this group, which performs a wide variety of contemporary and traditional music, including a variety of pop, rock, country, show tunes, songs of faith, and patriotic music.

During the past four decades, members of THE VOICES OF OHIO have entertained millions. They have delighted audiences throughout the world, be it the Grand Concert Halls of Europe, the White House Rose Garden, "The Great White Way" in New York City, or in the prestigious "Tournament of Roses Parade."

Recently, The Voices of Ohio were featured performers on the "Kenny Rogers Christmas and Hits Tour," in addition to festivals, concert series, and county fairs throughout Ohio and the Ohio State Fair. Over 50 choir members represent several generations and come from all walks of life and all over the state of Ohio. As diverse as the music they sing and perform, their love of music, friendship and dedication have brought them together again. It is due to their common history that they say: "Come Hear Us Again...For the First Time!" This concert is free to attend; a freewill offering will be accepted to help defray travel costs. Join us!

NOTE FROM PASTOR CINDY

Hello, First St. John's folks! I will always feel so very blessed as I remember the time we spent together in the summer of 2013. I enjoyed my time with each of you very much! Many thanks from me for so many lovely things from all of you. God bless you always! Much love,

-- Pastor Cindy Ritter



WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

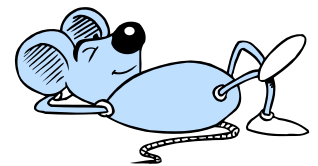
This scholarship helps members of First St. John attending college for the 2014/2015 school year. Scholarship applications are available in the church office. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30th to be considered.

DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Beginning March 1st, the general public is invited to enroll their children for the 2014/2015 school year. Children who will be age 3 by August 1, 2014 are eligible to attend. First St. John members are encouraged to "check out" our school. If you're interested or would like more information, call Barb Shellhammer at 419-691-6480.

MOUSE UPDATE

Our Church Mouse has sought out warmer climates, and he'll be back in April.



MEMORIALS

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Ron Curtis** by Bob & Sherri Haar.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Grace Heninger** by Annette & Phil
7 Breno, Don & Marcia Shaink.

MARKET DAY FUNDRAISER

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 can be found in the Narthex and the church office so you can see the food that is offered. 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 keying in 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 playground facility. Up to 20% of every order supports our school. *** *For March, if we sell 750 pies we will receive \$4,000 right away!****

Deadline for orders is Friday, March 7th for hard copy order sheets or Saturday, March 8th by 10:00 pm for on-line orders. Our first pick-up date is Friday, March 14th from 4:15 to 5:15 pm here at the school's gym (elevator service available). If you can't make that time frame, you can use the Pick-Up Locator function on the Market Day website to find another location that better suits your schedule.

Market Day guarantees you'll be 100% satisfied with the taste and quality of their products. Just call 1-877-632-7753 with any questions. THANK YOU for your help!

CEMETERY CLEAN UP NOTICE

With Easter nearing, please take time to remove older decorations and grave blankets, especially those from Christmas. Thanks in advance for your help.



PASTOR'S ARTICLE

(continued from page 1)

As Jesus said, "These people look but do not see; they listen but do not hear." To see clearly, our eyes must be opened and our hearts inspired. This is the gift of faith.

Jesus asked the disciples a second question: "But who do you say that I am?" (This is crucial for people of every generation to answer.) Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (We expected Peter would get it right.) Jesus responded to Peter's confession, "Blessed are you, Simon! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." (Peter was indeed blessed to have received God's gift of faith.)

It can be difficult to sort things out, keep things straight, and know what is true. Yet, the importance of answering the question about Jesus remains. It is not enough to know what others say about Jesus, or what their opinions may be. We must answer for ourselves. This is why we should ask the Lord for the gift of faith each day. Ole Hallesby has written:

"They who by the grace of God have been given faith in Christ have found the fixed point which gives balance and poise to their whole lives. They know where to go with everything which before made their lives so distressing, burdensome, and hopeless.

"Christ is their substitute. To him they can go with all their sins and never be turned away, received by him with love and forgiveness, raised up by him to new courage and a new desire to strive against their sins.

"Christ is their almighty Friend, to whom they daily turn with all that is distressing and burdensome, difficult and impossible. And Jesus is never at a loss as to what to do. He finds a way out, even when we have complicated matters as much as possible."

Ash Wednesday is March 5th and the start of Lent. Make plans to be part of our Lenten journey by reserving time to participate in our special worship opportunities. Reserve part of your day for your own devotional time, too. Especially during this Lenten season, pray for faith for yourself and for others—because faith is a wondrous gift above all others.

FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES—February 18, 2014

President Keith Mullen opened the Tuesday, February 18, 2014 meeting at 7:40 pm. Pastor Rayl led devotions.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the January meeting were read. John Spoerl motioned to approve the minutes, Dave Warnke seconded, motion passed.

Sunday School Report: The Souper Bowl of Caring is still going on, and a collection of 244 canned goods were collected as of last Sunday. On March 2, the 7th & 8th graders will help transport the food to LSS. They will have a presentation and help stock the shelves. Lunch will follow.

The Mom2Mom sale has 20 tables sold as of today with hopes of selling 10 more. Volunteers will be needed to run the elevator on Friday and Saturday. Please contact Jamie if you can help. On March 23 from 2-4 there will be a joint bowling outing between the Dayschool and church. The event will be held at Penny Jo's Eastern Lanes on Woodville. For \$5, each person can enjoy pizza, pop and bowling.

Current plans are to change the Confirmation date to April 27 as three families will be out of town on May 4. A celebration dinner and faith testimony will be set up before April 27. Volunteers are needed to listen to the confirmands.

The Sunday School Committee also thanked Julie Gallaher for all her years of help with Sunday School and welcomed Jennifer Cromly to the team.

Elders Report: Bill reported that Ash Wednesday is March 5 and they have coverage for all Wednesday services. Elders want to know if they are needed for Confirmation testing. It was stated that council members would be doing this, and that would include Elders. It was suggested to have the Elders handle the confirmands. Bill also stated they are trying their best to keep the steps and walks salted.

Property Management: PM met with the historical committee to ask what their needs were for the business office. Electrical outlets will be needed. Office furniture will be delivered by this Friday. Money was approved for resurfacing/repairing the parking lots. Please thank Floyd Hagedorn for the work he has been doing to preserve the documents

and history of FSJ. A thank you needs to be extended to Mike Folk for the donation of office furniture for the workroom. Bill Caldwell asked that the snow be pushed away from the buildings ASAP so it does not melt into the buildings.

Treasurers Report: Lisa Anderson presented the report. Chris presented the audits that were performed. Karen Holmes is working with a group on the Personal Needs Pantry. See attached. Dave Warnke motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Karen Holmes seconded, motion passed

Dayschool Report: There will be a pie sale...if each Dayschool child sells 4 pies, they make \$4,000 through their new fundraiser called Market Day. Gift cards will also be sold as a fundraiser in March. Benefit Bash update: Name changed to The Leaf Festival and will be on October 11 with dueling pianos, silent auction, 50/50, and wine tasting at Sunrise Banquet Center. Finances were not presented at this time. Bill Caldwell discussed a new system called ProCare which is a web-based program for attendance and safety issues. A charter is needed for the Dayschool, and Bill and Pastor met with a woman from the ELCA who will help them write this. Donna Koenker, Chuck Hyre and Jane Neal will be assisting with the charter. Volunteers are needed to read stories to the Dayschool students. Mike asked if tuition was discounted or not paid for on snow days. It was stated extended care does not pay if they are not here due to a closure. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten pay in advance.

Pastors Report: A card was received from Pastor Ritter thanking us for welcoming her while she served here in the summer. Transfers Out: Melissa, Hannah, and Noah Lang to St. John Lutheran in Stony Ridge, and Jody & Sierra Bronowski to St. Mark Lutheran, Toledo. Four baptisms were performed in 2014 so far: Koltan Boos, Lillian Box, and Mallory and Emerson Wineland. Marilyn Cashen will head up the Cradle Roll program. This Saturday, Pastor will perform a renewal of vows for the Oliphants. Their family is surprising them with this ceremony.

COUNCIL MINUTES (continued from previous page)

Pastor's Report (continued): New Member classes are still ongoing with five new members going through.

We were asked to join Covenant Congregation, in partnership with the Lutheran Homes, which entails volunteering, providing an advocate, and other items we are already doing. This will formalize it. Chris Hunsaker motioned we join, Mike Winslow seconded. Motion passed. Lutheran Social Services 103rd annual meeting is a March 24 dinner meeting. The cost is \$25. The new Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, will be speaking. The Synod Assembly will be May 16-18 at Kalahari. Families are encouraged to attend. It will cost a family of four \$338, which includes room, passes, hog roast, worship services, rallies, kids camp, and speakers. Five delegates are needed, but all are welcome. Two men, two women and a youth under age 25 are needed. April 10 is the deadline for delegates, April 15 is the deadline for rooms.

Old Business: The room is now cleared out for the Personal Needs Pantry, and paper towels, soap and other items were left for our use.

New Business: Laurie Witt presented information on Voices of Ohio who will perform on Saturday March 29, 7 PM at FSJ. Laurie is in this group that consists of former All Ohio State Fair Youth choir members.

Tom Eppard stated many new people were at the Christmas programs and many asked where the restrooms were. Can we get signs to direct people as to where they are located? Property Management will handle this.

Mike Winslow wanted to know if we were going to send out Easter postcards again. Pastor Rayl stated we were.

Keith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laurie Witt motioned, Karen Holmes seconded. Motion passed. Pastor closed meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Folk
Council Secretary

MARCH MINISTRY FOCUS



Each year, First St. John's Women's group does many mission projects supporting local and world-wide organizations. In order 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 March ministry emphasis is the Luther Home of Mercy, which works with those who have developmental disabilities. Remember Jesus' words, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least who are members of my family, you did it to me!" (*Matthew 25:40*)



DARTBALL NOTICE

Our Monday, March 17th matches will be played at home, not away as in the schedule. We switched home vs. away games with our opponents back in November. Please make a note of it.

FUNDRAISING WHILE YOU SHOP!

First St. John Dayschool will be starting a new fundraising program for our school called Scrip. Scrip is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their school. Scrip is another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks and credit cards.

How does it work? 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 becomes 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 first order due date will be Thursday, March 13th. Look for more information in future Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters.