



First St. John Journal



Volume 28, Issue 4

April, 2015

Our time of tears throughout Lent has come to a happy ending with tears of joy over the Resurrection. A father took his little boy to a pet shop to pick out a puppy for his birthday present. For half an hour he looked at the assortment in the window. "Decided which one you want?" asked his Daddy. "Yes," the little fellow replied, pointing to one that was enthusiastically wagging his tail. "I want the one with the happy ending." For all the tears of sorrow, disappointment, and tragedy of Lent, Easter is a Happy Ending to this season. Christ's glorious resurrection has turned them into tears of joy. Tears on Easter? Yes, tears of a happy ending to sin, sorrow, death, and tragedy. Now we can say "HAPPY EASTER" and really mean it!

Tears of joy come to us at Easter because we have in the resurrected Christ the truth of God, ourselves, and our salvation. When Mary Magdalene recognized the risen Jesus, she exclaimed, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher." Of all possible names, the one that instinctively came to her was the one that dealt with his teaching the truth. We need to know and understand the truth of God for our stability and security. Without the truth, we are confused. We want answers and solutions; we already have plenty of questions and problems. We are on sinking sand until we have the truth, and then our feet are on solid rock. Like Mary, we want to take hold of Jesus, the truth, and not let go.

Knowing the truth is reason for rejoicing. On Easter day we rejoice with tears of joy because we have the truth in the Risen Christ; for the whole Christian faith ultimately rests on the resurrection—that the One who was crucified is also the One who is risen from the dead. If Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith would be in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:14ff)

The Resurrection gives us the truth that God can be trusted. It says to us that God is in control of the world and our lives. It was God who raised Jesus. It was God who did what no human could do—God rolled away the stone from the tomb. On Good Friday, we

wondered where God was and how could God allow his Son to be crucified. Even Jesus in a moment of supreme obedience and sacrifice cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" And in so doing Jesus gave voice to the deepest and ultimate question of our shared human experience, even if that question remains unexpressed except in "sighs too deep for words."

Praise God that in the light of Easter we now know that God was in the shadows, suffering and dying in Jesus. Behind the overcast sky of doubt and tribulation the sun of God shines, and one day the sun of God's love and presence will shine through. As the Gospel according to John declares, "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." The reality of God's living and abiding love is witnessed in the Resurrection. How happy we are to know that God lives and reigns!

Easter, moreover, gives us the truth of Jesus. Is he or is he not God's Son, the Messiah, the Redeemer, and our Savior? When he suffered and died on a cross like the two thieves, we may have had doubt that his words were true. He said, "The Father and I are one," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Now we know his words are solid truth. No other person was raised to new life from the dead. No other religious leader, no wise sage, no ruler with power had that experience. Of all the billions of people that ever lived, only one was raised to new life from the dead. Jesus, for a fact, is God's only Son. He *does* have the authority to forgive our sins, and he *does* have the power to save us. Oh, what wonderful truth that rejoices the heart! Now I know that my Redeemer lives, and I am sure I can put my whole trust in him for eternal life.

Rejoice in the truth that the final outcome is good. In a world where evil, corruption, and crime seem to succeed, we may wonder at times whether God or Satan is in control of the world. Easter gives us the truth: Good will ultimately win out. Love is stronger than hatred. Out of death will come life. This is most certainly true. You can base your life on it.

(continued on page 7)



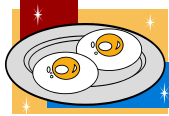
ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Our annual rummage sale will be Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th.

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 29th. If you will need the elevator to bring your items to the gym, please try to wait until Monday, May 4th 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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

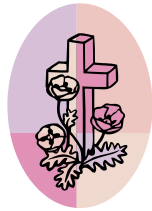


Our Men's Breakfast Fellowship will meet Saturday, April 4th at 8:00 a.m. at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

APRIL ELDER SCHEDULE

2nd	11:00 am Jeff Ladd	M. Thurs.	7:00 pm Bob & Sherrie Haar, Dick Haar
3rd	12:00 pm Bill Nelson	G. Friday	7:00 pm Darold Henninger Mike Winslow
5th	8:00 am Bob Haar Sherrie Haar	Easter	10:00 am Linda Yenrick Laurie Witt Bill Nelson
12th	7:45 am Dick Haar Jeff Ladd		10:15 am Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich
19th	Ryan Hugueley Bill Nelson		Darold Henninger Mike Winslow
26th	Linda Yenrick Laurie Witt		Sherrie Haar Bob Haar

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Maundy Thursday, April 2

11:00 am — Worship - Chapel
7:00 pm — Worship - Church

Good Friday, April 3

12:00 pm — Worship
7:00 pm — Worship

Easter Sunday, April 5

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

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE APRIL 24th

“MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER” WALK

The walk is Saturday, May 9th at Levis Commons. We have a team information packet available, but currently no official team. If you are interested in putting a team together, please call Janine Contat at 419-837-0013. For more information, you can go on-line to www.MakingStridesWalk.org/NWOHio

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

None.

Marriages

None

Deaths

2-24-15 Geraldine Mottmiller

3-04-15 Virginia Meyer

3-10-15 Julie Loucks

3-11-15 Bill Giles

3-21-15 Jim Hecklinger

Transfers to/from First St. John

None.

CONFIRMATION NEWS



On April 19th 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, their immediate families, and council members. If you are interested in attending please RSVP and bring a dish to share.

Confirmation practice is Saturday, April 25th at 11:00 am. Confirmation and first communion is Sunday, April 26th at the 10:15 service. Pictures will be taken following the service.

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING SOON

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 22 through Thursday, June 25. Our theme is Everest—Embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. Anchor kids in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges.

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.

Vacation Bible School 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!

MINISTRY OUTREACH TO LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

We have been given the opportunity to serve the young people in our church neighborhood who attend Birmingham Elementary School. This is a K-8 school located near Tony Packo's restaurant in East Toledo. At this time, they are in great need of socks and underwear for their students. Many children have been attending school in the cold weather without socks. And when the younger children have accidents, new, clean underwear is appreciated by the school nurse so she can properly care for them. The underwear is needed mainly by children ages 5-9 (sizes 5 to 10) for boys and girls. The socks are for all the children; their ages range from 5-13. When you bring in these items, look for the Birmingham bins which will be located in the Narthex and the lounge.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Frank Beavers, Jr.** by Don & Marilyn Hughes.

In memory of **Virginia Meyer** by Ken, Barb & Mark Wolf.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Evelyn Willmann** by Roy & Rita Riegle.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Geraldine Mottmiller** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Evelyn Giles** by Bob & Deb Hecklinger.

In memory of **Bill Giles** by Gene Hagedorn, Jean DeWitt, Chuck & Jane Neal.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Virginia Meyer** by Jean DeWitt.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Julie Loucks** by Chuck & Jane Neal.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Virginia Meyer** by Gene Hagedorn.



THE VOICES OF OHIO ARE BACK!

The Voices of Ohio are coming back to First St. John on Saturday, April 11th at 7:00 pm. **The Voices of Ohio** is an exciting and dynamic adult ensemble, drawing on a collective membership that has more than 45 years of show business experience. Under the Artistic Director, Orrville Ohio native Girard Stewart, **The Voices of Ohio** perform a repertoire that includes songs from the 1930s through today's hits, including country, Broadway, inspirational songs, and a star-spangled not-to-be-missed finale that is guaranteed to bring the crowd to their feet.

No charge, but a freewill offering will be collected to help offset the cost of bringing the group to First St. John. This group gave a fantastic show last year, so don't miss it!

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.

ANNUAL CARD PARTY

The 24th annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 14th 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We will not have Sunday School on April 5th (Easter) or 12th (Easter break). Classes will resume Sunday, April 19th at 9:00 am.

READERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to read the scriptures at the late service. The lessons will be sent to you ahead of time so you can print them out and practice them before you have to read them. If this sounds like something you'd like to do to serve your church, call Marion Fouty at 419-693-0940 or 419-693-0017 or email him at mfouty@foutywaterjet.com



MONTHLY MINISTRY PROGRAM CONTINUES

Last year's Ministry Focus months were such a big success that we decided to repeat last year's program again. Each year, First St. John WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) does many mission projects supporting local and worldwide church and community organizations that provide life-enhancing services and share God's love and grace with people in need. In order to expand the reach of the Women's group, these outreach projects will be *shared* with the entire congregation. When possible, individuals representing the ministry will be present to share something interesting and inspiring about their work.

Special envelopes are in the pews to give everyone the opportunity to respond with a donation of support. April's ministry emphasis is Lutheran Social Services of NW Ohio. Remember what Jesus declared, "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*)

LADIES, EVERYONE'S INVITED!

The NW Ohio Synodical Women's Organization is holding their 2015 Convention on Saturday, June 20th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Bowling Green. The theme is: Celebration of Generations. St. Mark is located at 315 S. College Dr. in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Registration is \$25; lunch and snacks are \$15 (provided by Panera Bread). Registration deadline is Monday, June 1st. There is also a "meet and greet" on Friday, June 19th at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Express in Bowling Green, if you like to attend.

If you are interested in attending, there is a registration form on the WELCA clipboard in the lounge, or you can see Toni in the church office.

For more information or questions, please contact Brenda Shibler at 419-446-2122.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP — APOLOGY AND THANK YOU

Many thanks to all cemetery lot owners who were able to spring clean their lots within the short time between the end of winter and Easter. For those with tight schedules, we apologize for any removal of grave decorations that took place before you could come out to tend to them. In the future, if you cannot get to the cemetery to clean away old decorations by the spring deadline (March 15), call the church office and we can get someone to remove whichever decorations you'd like to keep until you can come and pick them up. Thank you.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Michael & Amanda Campbell
340 N. Wynn Rd.
Oregon, OH 43616

Phyllis Kelly
6561 Anthony Dr.
Maumee, OH 43537

FOOD COLLECTION WRAP-UP

Pastor Rayl challenged us a couple of weeks ago to beat last year's total of 600 food items collected for the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry (as part of our Souper Bowl of Caring that began in February). We did it! Our total collection was 638 items. Congratulations to all our church members, JAM students, and Dayschool families who participated. Thank you VERY much!

ALL-DAUGHTER BANQUET— SAVE THE DATE!



Our annual All-Daughter Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:00 pm in the gym (elevator available). Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children ages 4-12, and free for children 3 and under.

Reservations begin in April. Gentlemen, we need your help, too. Lots of fun for all, so see you there!



JAMIE'S NEWS—DIRECTOR OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT

First St. John Lutheran Church Updates:

As of last Sunday we had 467 food items collected for the Lutheran Social Services food pantry- with a challenge from Pastor to extend it one more week to make it to our goal of 600!! Last year we had 517 canned goods. Here's to reaching our goal! Pastor is working with LSS to secure a date to transport all the canned goods.

The MOM2MOM sale was awesome. Great turn out. Thank you to all who donated their time! We couldn't have done it without you. By Design, Barb and myself would like to thank all of the church members and teachers who donated their time the day before and the day off! Your volunteerism is so appreciated.

We will have a Traveling Resurrection Story in place of our Easter Egg Hunt for JAM and the Dayschool during the Sunday School hour on March 29th. We will have 5-6 stations where the kids will travel to in order to learn the Easter story. They will also decorate Easter bags and have a snack - and then we will conclude in the church! If anyone would like to help lead a station (which will just include reading part of the Easter Story and asking questions), please contact Jamie ASAP. If anyone would like to donate "filler" items we can hand out for our Traveling Resurrection Story that would be wonderful (ex: candy, Easter erasers, coins, etc.).



Confirmation and 1st Communion date is April 26th. We will confirm the 8th graders in addition to having them participate in their first communion. We will have the confirmands and their parents commune at the altar, followed by continuous communion for the rest of the congregation. On April 19 the 8th graders will be giving their "faith testimonies" and answering questions from the elders. We will have it during the 9:00 a.m. hour with a brunch following the late service for the 8th graders and their immediate families, as well as council members. If you are interested in attending please RSVP and bring a dish to share. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00: 8th graders meeting with Council members 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.: Celebratory Brunch with Parents. We need 10 COUNCIL members to "quiz" the 5 confirmands during the 9:00 a.m. hour. Please let Jamie know ASAP if you are willing to participate.



VBS - Monday, June 22 - Thursday, June 25. Everest—Group's VBS Theme for 2015 - Embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. Anchor kids in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges. WE NEED LOTS of volunteers! Save the date and plan to join us!

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

*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. 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 17th 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!

Have you taken advantage of the SCRIP Fundraising program through the Dayschool? Scrip is a no-selling program that enables congregation and school families to raise money for the school. Scrip is another way to 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. Order forms are available in the Narthex and outside of the

church office. 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.

Please 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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As a way of moving forward in the advancement and growth of our ministry here at First St. John, the Board of Education has, in consultation with Pastor Rayl, made a change in Jamie Blazevich's title from Director of Christian Education to **Director of Faith Development**. Her job description has not changed, but hopefully this new title will better describe the broader range of her areas of interest and oversight. Look for her new title, Director of Faith Development, to appear on all her correspondence and official church publications.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

At present, we may have trouble and tragedy and our situation may seem hopeless. But the Resurrection gives us the truth that the tomb of death will open. Justice will one day prevail. Morning follows the night. With tears of joy in your eyes, you can live with hope in "hopeless" circumstances because "Those who sow in tears, will reap with shouts of joy" (Psalm 126:5).
— Pastor Rayl

First St. John Prayer Chain

(as of March 24, 2015)

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:

**Barbara Chech
Family of Bill Giles
Family of Jim Hecklinger
Family of Julie Loucks
Family of Virginia Meyer
Family of Geraldine Mottmiller
Gene Price
Bill Wegman**

Ongoing Concerns 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:

**Betty Anderson
Fritz Babcock
Jordyn Beckhusen
Nancee Bender
Richard Buchholz
Karen Burris
Gail Chaffee
Pat Christy
Greg Contat
Jackie, Tina, and Robin Curtis
Dennis Eischen
Baby Goolsby
James & Jason Goorman
Larry Grant
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger
Gary Henningsen
Rose Hensley
Jamie Kataschae
Jordan Keller
Scott Keller
Paul Kesler Family
Laurie Koch
Pastor Labuhn
Stephanie Larkins
George "Skip" Mc Cullough
Donna Miller**

**Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar & his family
Dutch Morrison
Jessica Mueller
Olivia and Delaney
Linda Parker
Sheryl Rayl
Cindy Roecker
Robert Ruch
Norm Schumaker
Mabel Shipley
Beverly Stockman Mission Group
Pat Vogelsang
Ray Walendzak
Kimberly Young
Joe Zielinski**

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 accept 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.

FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES - March 17, 2015

Absent: Chris Hunsaker, Ryan Huguely, Jamie Blazeovich, Laurie Witt, Jason Blazeovich, Susan Tilton. Pastor opened the meeting with devotions.

Secretary: February minutes – Motion made to accept the minutes by John Spoerl, seconded by Mike Winslow, motion carried.

Regular meeting was temporally diverted to allow Bill Caldwell to present a “Special Funds” report to the council members. Special Funds report provided information about the funds maintained by the Special Funds Committee, comprised of members from First St. John Lutheran Church. This “Special Funds Committee” has been in existence for the past 34 years. Funds include: Memorial, Housing, Cemetery, Endowment, George Ackerman Scholarship, Air Conditioner.

This committee has supplied financial records to the church council, published an annual report, sought council approval for funds to help maintain, repair, or invest designated fund money, financed debt for church capital improvements, and solicited thousands of dollars of donations to these funds.

A request came from the Special Funds committee to use money from the Memorial Fund to purchase 2 new altar Bibles that are in desperate need of replacement. LuAnn Spoerl made a motion to accept, Pam Beavers seconded the motion, motion carried.

Discussion was held over how to possibly invest for the future of the church. Additional information was provided to the council by an “Investment Committee” about possible opportunities to invest money into Mutual Funds (Thrivent) or into Endowment Funds Pooled Trust (an ELCA Foundation). Discussions were held as to an amount, pro’s and con’s of each program, and long-term investment possibilities. Council recommended to the Special Funds Committee to do further research on which fund option would be in the best interest of First St. John. Then, if necessary, council will discuss further. Bob Haar made a motion to table discussions until April’s meeting to allow Special Funds committee to do further research. LuAnn Spoerl seconded the motion, motion carried.

Pastor Rayl also felt it important to mention that the support of the members of First St. John helped make up the 2014 budget shortfalls, and that no money was used from Special Funds!

Director of Faith Development / Sunday School: Please note Jamie’s title change, presented to the Sunday School board by Jamie Blazeovich and voted on by members of the Board. Title will be effective immediately.

As of last Sunday we had 467 canned goods collected, with a challenge from Pastor to extend it one more week to make it to our goal of 600! Last year we had 517 canned goods. Pastor is working with Lutheran Social Services to secure a date to transport all of the canned goods.

The MOM2MOM sale was awesome. Great turn out. Thank you to all who donated their time! We couldn’t have done it without you. By Design, Barb and myself would like to thank all the church members and teachers who donated their time to help. Your volunteerism is so appreciated.

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COUNCIL MINUTES (continued)

Director of Faith Development / Sunday School (continued): NEEDED – 10 COUNCIL members to “quiz” the 5 confirmands during the 9:00 a.m. hour. Please let Jamie know ASAP if you can help.

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Elders: Lenten Services for Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm services; Good Friday 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm services; EASTER SERVICES are at 8:00 and 10:00 am.

Also, scholarship awards for the Winslow Memorial will be decided on in the upcoming month. If applicants have not already done so, they should submit their information by March 30th.

Property Management: Continuing to fix and maintain Educational building and Church. Security lights on the side of the Educational Building are in need of repair/replacement/new light bulb. Drinking fountain on the second floor has arrived, replacement will be coordinated through Property Management. Replaced relays on the boilers 3 times, and seems to be working well now. Added a new thermostat in the church by the Altar Guild room.

Financial Report: Dave Wilbarger motioned, Dick Haar seconded to accept the report, motion carried.

Dayschool Report: Melissa Collins presented the report. Registration for the upcoming school year is underway. L.E.A.F. Festival preparations for next year are being discussed and worked on. Thank you to the church for helping make the Dayschool families and children feel welcome as we sung some of our favorite songs.

There is \$9,500 designated for the new playground. Discussions were held by council as to a timeframe for making a new area for the playground.

Discussions/timeline were tabled until next meeting in order to check with outside resources.

Pastor's Report: New member class is wrapping up. On Sunday, April 12 five members will be presented.

No marriages, burials took place for 5 families.

National Lutheran Schools Week – Dayschool singers/congregation total 320 in attendance.

Synod assembly will be in Bowling Green May 15-16. Delegates from FSJ will be in attendance.

Organ repair quotes are out to fix the “card reader” for prerecorded music.

Speakers in church have a “hum,” some have been fix or replaced. Those speakers that were not accessible will be looked at in the next few weeks.

Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday Readers are needed – Palm Sunday is March 29.

Constitution – Still waiting for Synod's official approval. However, the committee states it is unlikely they will make any further changes and would like to get a copy to the congregation for review as soon as possible. Further meetings for discussion/viewing the constitution will be announced.

Cathy Shibler from the Synod office is advising council that in order to create a balance that will maintain stability for First St. John, they recommend at this time that council does not proceed with a Pastoral Call for at least a 1 year and half. Council is in agreement with the Synod and will follow synod guidelines for a Pastoral Call in the future. Council has also discussed informing the congregation of this process in a newsletter, at services, or via email.

New Business: None

Closing of the meeting: Lori Pfeiffer made a motion, LuAnn Spoerl seconded, motion carried.

Closed with a prayer and Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

10 Lori Pfeiffer