



First St. John Journal



Volume 28, Issue 6 & 7

June / July 2015

Here is something I ran across this past month that I want to share. It reminded me how important our words and attitudes are as we go about our lives day to day within our families, communities, and the church. I pray the Holy Spirit will give us the insight and inspiration we need and the desire to live as children of God.

Good words are worth much, cost little, and pay huge rewards for ourselves and others when distributed liberally. As the seeker of wisdom reminds us in Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

It takes just as much energy to say a positive word as it does a negative one. In fact, it may take even less. Research has shown that when we speak positive words—even in difficult circumstances or troubling situations—our bodies relax. As we relax, blood flow increases, including blood flow to the brain. A well-oxygenated brain is much more likely to think creatively, make wise decisions, find reasonable solutions, and generate answers to questions.

Positive words ease relationships and create an atmosphere of peace that is conducive to rest, relaxation, rejuvenation, and sleep—all of which are necessary for good health.

On the other hand, contrary to popular thought, negative words do NOT release tension . . . they keep the body in a state of tension, constricting muscles and blood vessels. Irrational, uncreative, and unreasonable behavior is a secondary effect.

A continual flow of negative words causes relationships to suffer, which creates an atmosphere of disharmony and makes for fitful sleep and frayed nerves—none of which is healthy!

One of the best things we can do for our overall

health and for the health of our relationships is to transform our speech habits! Such a transformation is indeed a gift of the Holy Spirit and might well be the best gift of “speaking in tongues” that a Christian should pray for and that we celebrate on Pentecost.

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:30-32)

— *Pastor Rayl*

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR JOHN ROWLEY

Our current music director, John Rowley, will officially retire at the end of May, and we will be having a reception for him in the lounge after the 9:00 am service on June 7th. Everyone is invited to join us.

John has been the music director here at First St. John for the past 35 years! He came here in September of 1980. Pastor Buenting was the senior pastor, Pastor Jordan was just beginning his time here, and Barb Zaugg (now Metzger) was the organist. Over the years, John has worked with seven other organists and five senior or associate pastors!

Although John is retiring from his job as Music Director, he is NOT leaving First St. John. In fact, he tells us he is looking forward to singing with the choir (when he’s not traveling, right, John?).

Don’t forget to join us on Sunday, June 7th!



SUMMER WORSHIP

Our summer worship schedule begins Sunday, June 7th and runs through Sunday, September 6th. We will have only one service at 9:00 am and no Sunday School for the summer.

We will alternate between traditional and celebration formats, with communion on the first and fourth Sundays of each month. June 7th will start with the traditional format, June 14th with the celebration format, and so on. See you this summer!

Summer office hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, beginning Monday, June 1st and running through Friday, September 4th.

ELDERS SCHEDULE

Please note we will have only one service at 9:00 am each Sunday in the summer.

JUNE

7th Linda Yenrick, Laurie Witt
14th Bob & Sherrie Haar
21st Jeff Smith, Jason Blazeovich
28th Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd

JULY

5th Darold Henninger, Mike Winslow
12th Ryan Hugueley, Bill Nelson
19th Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar
26th Linda Yenrick, Laurie Witt

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

5-3-15 *Christina Marie Donley*, born March 25, 2014 to Jerid and Stacy (Cowell) Donley. Sponsors are Justin Donley and Melanie Cathers.

Marriages

5-15-15 Heather Burke and Christopher Vitale
5-23-15 Catherine Hallauer and Stephen Matthews

Deaths

None of which we are aware.

Transfers to First St. John

MacKenzie Seckel from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Hilliard, OH.

Transfers from First St. John

Jake & Barbara Trombley and their granddaughter, Alexandria Cole to Memorial Lutheran Church in Toledo.

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

We will not be meeting in June or July. We will resume our regular meetings in August.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE — JULY 22nd

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Fred Weidinger by Eugene & Janet Schacht.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Jim Hecklinger by Sheila & Dennis Johnson, Rick & Cathy Hecklinger, Joanne Crandall.
In memory of Dorthea Heidmann by Pastor Gerald & Ilean Labuhn.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Michael Cory by John & Karen Rowley.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Fred Weidinger by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our men's breakfast group next meets on Saturday, June 6th at 8:00 am at the Bob Evans restaurant on Navarre Ave. In July, we'll meet on Saturday, July 11th at 8:00 am (same venue). Call Bob Haar 419-250-9409 if you need a ride

We will be celebrating ten years of meeting together for breakfast in September of this year. As a service project we are collecting school supplies for our adopted grade school Birmingham Elementary in the month of July. Watch for more information in future church bulletins for a list of supplies needed.



DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This 4-person scrambles will be Saturday, August 1st at 8:00 am at the Chippewa Golf Club. Cost is \$65 per person, which includes green fees, cart, and a chicken barbecue dinner. Prizes will be awarded for first place, longest drive and closest to the pin. Reservation and fees are due by Monday, July 27th. If you'd like to register or sponsor a hole, call Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or 419-698-6507. **All proceeds go to First St. John.**

MEET OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR, ANNETTE SLATER

Hello First St. John's Members! Thank you for my very warm welcome to your church family. I am excited to become your music director. I know I won't be able to "fill" the shoes of the great ones before me, but I hope I will be able to place mine right beside theirs and lead the members to find Christ's love through music.

Since I am the "newbie" of the choral family, I'd like to introduce myself (although I'm much more interested to meet you personally, this will have to do for now).....I am a 1987 Music Education graduate of Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio and a 2000 Masters of Education graduate from BGSU. I have been teaching choral music for 27 years, the last 18 of those at Northwood High School where I am the choral director for grades 7-12, swing choir director, and musical director.

I am married to my wonderful and supportive husband, Duncan, and we have two children: Holly (age 22) and Scott (age 17). My husband is retired from the 180th Ohio Air National Guard base and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. My daughter, Holly, is a 2015 graduate of the University of Findlay and is living in Upper Sandusky, working for Hord Family Farms in Bucyrus. My son, Scott, is finishing his junior year of high school at Northwood and is active in football, basketball, soccer, and music. My family loves boating, camping, and being together.

I am all about being involved (as you can see from above!) and giving my all to everything I do. I am very involved as a teacher, a mom, an Ohio Music Educator, a choir director, and now a church music director. My plate will be full, but those who know me well know that's how I like it to be. I strive to enjoy each day and each person with whom I meet. I hope to bring joy to each of your lives as I lead the congregation in music. I hope you will find that joy through some piece of musical experience throughout the year. I am so happy to be here, and I thank each of the choir members for welcoming me with open arms. What a wonderful group of singers I have been invited to join. They have been so friendly and welcoming! THANK YOU!!!

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our next ministry outreach will be the Lutheran Disaster Response, which brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Because of lighter summer attendance, we will collect for Lutheran Disaster Response throughout the summer months.

DAVID WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Congratulations to Brant and Bryce Anderson, recipients of this year's David Winslow Scholarship. Congratulations!

BORROWING TABLES & CHAIRS

When you want to borrow tables and chairs for your summer events, please make sure you call the church office to reserve them ahead of time. Also, please remember the tables and chairs in the gym are not to be removed from the building; instead, the tables and chairs in the parsonage garage are available for borrowing. Thank you.

WELCA CIRCLE NEWS

Ruth Circle: We will be having lunch at the Eagle's Nest on Seaman Rd. on Tuesday, June 2nd at 11:30 am. In July, we will meet on July 7th in the lounge at 11:00 am, as we always do.

Miriam Circle: We will meet on Wednesday, June 3rd at noon at the Black Forest Café (on the G.A.F. grounds) at noon. We will not meet in July or August.

Rebecca Circle: Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 6th at 11:30 am at the Lutheran Home Assisted Living. We will be visiting with our friend Hilda Saelzler.

Hannah Circle: We will go out for dinner at a yet-to-be determined day, time, and place! (How's that for planning?) We will email everyone when we've established the particulars.

WELCOME, ANNETTE SLATER, OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR (continued from page 3)



One of my goals here at the church is to encourage those who might be shy to give music a try. I have been told this congregation has a great deal of talent, and I've seen that in the few weeks I've been here! I invite ANYONE to come join us in the choir loft next fall and ENCOURAGE all members of any age to share your love of God through music.

I am interested in getting our youth involved in Summer Music Sundays. Youth of any age from elementary through college and beyond are invited to contact me and let me know what your musical gift is and how I can help you share it. So please, don't be shy, share with me who you are and what kind of music brings you closer to Jesus. Even if it's just what your favorite hymn is, or that one song or moment when music really touched you and made a difference in your life... I'd like to hear from you. I promise, when you share your love of music, you will feel a totally full heart.

I have a few quotes hanging on my office wall that I look at each day, and I'd like to share them with you. One is "Music touches feelings that words cannot. It's the melody of the heart and the voice of one's spirit," and the other is "SING as if no one is listening." I look forward to meeting you and hearing your favorite music story.

— Annette Slater



REMINDER FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

Don't forget to honor your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board and sign up for the Sunday you want. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment.

NEW CHURCH CONSTITUTION

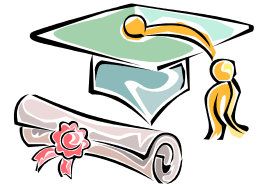
For what seems an interminable period of time, a committee appointed by First St. John's Church Council has been working to update the Church Constitution that was last revised in 1992. The committee has worked very hard, and its chairperson, Bob Haar, has provided reports in previous newsletters.

In October, 2014, the committee finalized the document and presented it to Church Council, which approved it and delivered it to our ELCA Northwestern Ohio Synod Council for review. Two weeks ago Sherry Krieger, the Synod Administrator, informed Church Council that the Synod Council has certified the revised First St. John Constitution as being in line with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This summer, the process to present the document to the congregation, allow for discussion, and take a final vote will begin. After June 1 a link to a digital copy of the Revised Constitution will be put on the church website, and paper copies will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary and on the information table in the lounge. Since it is a lengthy document, hopefully most folks will choose to access it electronically.

There will be times for group discussion and for Q & A sessions prior to the vote, to be done at a Congregational Meeting called for this (and only this) specific purpose. This is an important and necessary task as First St. John moves forward in our ministry and life together as God's people in Christ.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY June 21, 2015



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 21st. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized.

If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Monday, June 15th. Thank you.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.)



FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Don't forget our ongoing ministry to the Feed Your Neighbor program. Donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated. Please place your donations in the two right-hand bins under the main bulletin board in the Narthex or in the marked blue plastic bin in the lounge. Remember, no glass jars, please. Thanks for your help.

NEWS FROM OUR FAITH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

May 3 we had our VBS Preview in JAM, and on May 10 we held our Pastries for Parents in which we thanked the JAM parents for their dedication for bringing their children to Sunday school. That was our last day for JAM.

Our 4th year of Prayer Buddy ministry was such a pleasure to watch unfold! We held a reception in which the Prayer Buddies were introduced to each other on May 17, and love and joy were all around! Barb did a FANTASTIC preparing the delicious eggs and THANK YOU to the women of the church for all of their donations and their

hard work in the kitchen. We are blessed to have such great volunteers from our congregation and Dayschool!

The Board of Education (and we know you are as well) are concerned with the lack of participation/attendance in church of the 30 – 40 year olds and their families. We are putting together a survey to be emailed to the parents of our JAM, VBS participants, and others in that age group. As we get these results back, the Board will formulate a plan and will keep Council updated. However, we do have some ideas that can be tailored to the survey that will target our 30-40 age group parents.

Below are some sample questions developed by past and present Board of Ed. members (but this is not the extensive list of questions to be asked):

What prevents you from bringing your child to JAM?

What time would be most convenient for you to bring your child to JAM?

What prevents you from worshipping with your family on a regular basis?

What changes would you like to see in our worship service?



Thank you to all who donated to the JAM coffee maker fund!

In addition we will also be looking into refining our Catechism curriculum AND structure. Look for more details on this as well. We will need volunteers for this, and once a concrete plan has been developed we will let you know. As for now – if the Lord places this call on your heart to be involved in any way, please let Jamie or one of our Board members know.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date!!! Vacation Bible School this summer will be Monday, June 22 – Thursday June 25 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. each night. VBS is for ages 3 through fifth grade and is a great ministry tool to help children become closer to Jesus.



This year's 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.*

We need many volunteers for this wonderful event, and we hope you can join us! We also will have a list very soon of the items needed for VBS.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222.

Registration forms are available in the back of the church, the lounge, the church office, or online on our website: www.firststjohn.com



PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES

(As of 5/26/15)



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 "Chronic" after the first month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is contacted about special circumstances:

**Family of Karen Burris
Darlene Lorenzen
Jeanette Miller**

Chronic Prayer List

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

**Betty Anderson
Fritz Babcock
Don Babish
Jordyn Beckhusen
Gail Chaffee
Barbara Chech
Pat Christy
Greg Contat
Jackie & Tina Curtis
Linda Erdmann
Patty Gable
Baby Goolsby
Bob & Debbie Hecklinger
Delores Heilman
Scott Keller
Connie Koch
Laurie Koch
Pastor Labuhn
Stephanie Larkins
George "Skip" McCullough
Milena Mendoza
Donna Miller
Jessica Mueller
Donna Nelson
Linda Parker
Pam Pirolli**

**Gene Price
Sheryl Rayl
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Ethel Rideout
Cindy Roecker
Robert Ruch
David Ruedy
John Tsaousidis
Pat Vogelsang
Kimberly Young
Bill Wegman**

Please let any of the prayer chain contacts know if any of these individuals could be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or
cabbey@jcrinc.com

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030
Ada Kreger 419-693-1549
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

COUNCIL MINIUTES

(continued from page 8)

New Business (continued): President Keith Mullen reported he has an offer to raze the parsonage, which is in severe disrepair and a safety hazard. A motion was made by John Spoerl and seconded by Dave Wilbarger to continue to the next stage of the process. A voice vote on the motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Luann Spoerl and seconded by Chris Hunsaker. Motion carried. Pastor Rayl closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sherrie Haar
Acting Council Secretary

FIRST ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES—MAY 19, 2015

President Keith Mullen called the meeting to order. Pastor Rayl opened with devotions. Roll call was taken. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Luann Spoerl and seconded by Bill Hamilton. Motion carried.

Director of Faith Development/Sunday School.

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Board of Elders. June 7 begins our summer worship schedule of one service at 9:00 a.m. Communion will be on the first and fourth Sundays of the month. At the suggestion of Pastor Rayl, we will serve two continuous lines of communion with wine distributed on both sides. All weddings are covered.

Property Management. The WELCA ladies have ordered new chairs for the lounge. Many church and educational building repairs have been done by our

dedicated members of Property Management. The Council thanks them for their efforts. Also, special thanks goes out to Bill Schweizer for donating straw, Jeff Moritz for donating landscaping work, and Brad Morrison of Maumee Bay Turf who is helping with the Dayschool playground project. Various maintenance issues include turning on the cemetery water; fixing the light on the pulpit; and working on the threshold of the elevator.

Finance Committee. Chris Hunsaker reported that the month of April was a positive month for the budget. We still, however, have a budget shortfall. A motion to accept the Treasurer/Finance Committee Report was made by Dave Wilbarger and seconded by Andy Hodges. Motion carried.

Dayschool Report. Bill Hamilton reported that Dayschool enrollment was growing but they still have room for more registrations. Summer Dayschool begins on June 9. The Dayschool will be sponsoring another LEAF Dinner/Fundraiser in the fall. Proceeds will go toward the new playground.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Rayl reported there was one wedding and one baptism since the last council meeting. He reported that Jack and Barbara Trombley were transferring out, and MacKenzie Seckel is transferring in. Motions to accept transfers were made and the motions carried. The newly updated Church Constitution has been approved by the Northwest Ohio Synod. Information sessions concerning the changes in the constitution will be held sometime this summer. Pastor stated he will take July 12 and July 19 off. Supply pastors have already been scheduled for those two Sundays.

Old Business. None

New business. Luann Spoerl reported on the NWO Synod Assembly. It was a very unique experience with many exciting ideas on how the various Lutheran congregations can grow their membership and serve the community.

Bill Hamilton was thanked for procuring some extra computers for the Dayschool.