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# ♥ First St. John Journal ♥

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Volume 29, Issue 2

February 2016

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Ash Wednesday is on February 10 this year. This is the day when we enter into an annual pilgrimage that takes us from the grave none of us can escape to the surprising gift of an empty tomb that changes everything. Perhaps some of you may have already planned some sort of Lenten discipline like increasing your Bible reading or, God forbid . . . giving up chocolate. Before we arrive at the beginning of our Lenten journey, let's look for some guidance from the scriptures.

The Lenten verse from Joel that we sing in our Lutheran liturgy serves is a good summary for the focus of this season: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13).

Lent is not about losing weight, denying yourself, or taking on a new project. At its core, Lent is about returning to God. Often things happen in our lives that cause us to reevaluate where we stand in relationship to God:

- ◆ We get a disturbing diagnosis from the doctor
- ◆ We are in a life-altering accident
- ◆ The person we always counted on isn't there for us anymore
- ◆ The job that once defined us is gone

Life circumstances can come at us like a wake-up call, and if we're smart, we'll listen.

Lent is a time like that for us. But it's not something that just happens to us as a result of our life's circumstances. It's a time we enter into intentionally. And we do it together, in the community of the church with other people who also enter into it intentionally. In the midst of our day-to-day lives as the world pulls us further and further from God until God has become a stranger to us, we have this time to be reminded of the primary relationship in our lives. We have this opportunity to return to the Lord our God.

Right before Christmas I was visiting someone in the hospital, and as I rode in the elevator

a woman got on with me. She saw that I was wearing a clergy collar and proceeded to pour out her heart to me. Her husband had liver cancer. They told him he only had weeks or possibly days to live. Then she said, "You know, we were both raised in the church, but since we've been married we've never been church people. We never talk about God. Now I really regret that. I want God to be a part of our lives, but after all this time I don't know how to bring it up with my husband."

I thought about the story of the prodigal son and the father waiting with open arms for the son to return. What if the son had died before he had the chance to reconcile with his father? If you knew this was your last day, who would it be important for you to reconcile with? Perhaps a long-lost friend, a family member, or most importantly with God. As the words used in the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday forcefully declare the reality, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

During this season of Lent, instead of giving up chocolate, we can do something that will really make a difference in our lives. I encourage you to take the opportunity this Lenten season. In Christ, be reconciled to God and to one another.

— Pastor Rayl

## DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This scholarship helps graduating seniors of First St. John who will attend college for the 2016/2017 school year. Money is supplied from proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members. To apply, see Toni in the church office for an application. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30<sup>th</sup> to be considered.



## ITEMS NEEDED FOR BABY CARE KITS

The Rebecca Circle assembles baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

They currently need several items that make up these kits. If you would like to donate some of these, please drop them off at the church office. They will be collecting the items through September of this year. The kits are assembled and shipped in October. Here are the items needed:

- ◆ 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts \*\*
- ◆ 2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) \*\*
- ◆ 2 receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- ◆ 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ◆ 1 jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap \*\*
- ◆ 2 pairs of socks
- ◆ 1 hand towel, dark color
- ◆ 2 bath size bars of gentle soap (4 – 5 oz.) in original wrapping
- ◆ 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

\* Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months

## JEANS FOR JESUS



“Jeans for Jesus” is on Sunday, February 7th in recognition of Super Bowl Sunday. For an extra \$1, you can wear jeans and your favorite team’s jersey to church. Just add your \$1 to the large soup pot in the Narthex that day. All money collected in the soup pot will be donated to Lutheran Social Services’ food pantry.

## ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
7th	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich
Feb. 10th Ash Wednesday—Bob & Sherri Haar		
14th	Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow
Wed., Feb. 17th—Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy		
21st	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy	Bob Haar Sherri Haar
Wed., Feb. 24th—Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd		
28th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd

## COUNCIL MINUTES

To church members who receive the newsletter by email: please note the council minutes will no longer be included within the newsletter document. Instead, they will be in a separate attachment in the email. Church members receiving the newsletter via “snail” mail will not see any change, with the exception of minor formatting.

## DARTBALL UPDATE

As of January 19<sup>th</sup>, First St. John Team #2 is in first place, and Team #1 is in second place. Good work! Note: On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will play regular games. The tournament has been moved to March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to avoid inclement weather. Also, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, both Team #1 and Team #2 are at home. The rest of the schedule is correct.

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or e-mail us: office@firststjohn.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN STUDIES

### “THE PARABLES OF LENT”

Again this year we will have Lenten worship opportunities each Wednesday, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 10th and continuing through March 16th. These will be held in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. and the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

The theme this year centers around “The Parables Of Lent.” Each study will focus on one of the parables Jesus told as a way to gain insights into how the passage guides us into a deeper understanding of our relationship with God and how our faith empowers us to live each day. Below is a list of the parables we will examine.

Ash Wednesday: “Receive Justification” – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

- ◆ Week 1: “Receive the Word – The Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:1-23)
- ◆ Week 2: “Receive the Treasure” – The Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl (Matthew 13:44-46)
- ◆ Week 3: “Receive Mercy” – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- ◆ Week 4: “Receive Grace” – The Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- ◆ Week 5: “Receive Forgiveness” – The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Mark your calendars now and plan to include these opportunities to worship and grow in God’s Word during your Lenten journey this year.

### 2016 ROSTERS FOR ALL CHURCH WOMEN

The new 2016 rosters are in the lounge on the same table as the confirmation pictures. These booklets include officers of WELCA and Altar Guild, a calendar of events for all women, ongoing mission project needs, and a list of all the women’s Bible study groups, their members and their meeting times.

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

None of which we are aware

### Baptisms

None.

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

1-4-16 Virginia R. Tank  
1-11-16 Carl E. “Dutch” Morrison

### Transfers to First St. John:

None

**Transfers from First St. John:** Ed, Brooke, Bryan, and Crystal Shimman and Dan & Joyce Martin to St. Mark Lutheran Church in Toledo.

## ALTAR GUILD REMINDER



Don’t forget to honor or remember your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the 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, or you can mail it to the church office.

## READING THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Would you like to read the entire Bible? It’s never too late to start!!! Let’s make this the year we will actually read through the entire Bible.

We are using a One Year Bible daily reading plan with passages from the Old and New Testaments, Psalms and Proverbs, which brings variety and a fresh approach to each day’s 15-minute reading while providing a clear understanding of the Bible’s larger message. No other “through the Bible” plan presents the entire Bible in such a user-friendly format. Simply select the week and day to find the passages to be read. If you did not receive the reading plan chart or need another one, a few extras are in the Narthex and the lounge. Every eight weeks, we’ll distribute a new reading chart. Join us!



## MEMORIALS



### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Ada Kreger, Richard & Lola Crouse, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Richard & Margaret Timm, Dave & Rosie Korn and Evelyn, Roy & Sandi Korn, Dick & Naomi Korn, Konni Bostleman, William & Terri Hamilton, Carl & Janet Morrison, Carolyn Heintz, Carlene Trost, Richard & Joyce Gilts, Richard, Kay & Michael Nietz, Marilyn Cashen, Opal Sherman, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Mark & Deb Ackerman, Jill Hepner, Willie & Julie Moritz, Dick & Sue Herrington, Chuck & Jane Neal, Troy & Lisa Anderson and family, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Jim & Kim Cousino, Robert & Elizabeth Anderson, Ronnie & Harriet Hall, Don & Sherry Kepling, Pat & Jim Berg, Bob & Priscilla Zeller, Jim & Lynn Zeller, Don & Gerri Zeller, Marilyn Baker, John & Marlene Korn, Carol & Harold Leupp, Donna Koester.

In memory of Doris Danekind by Dr. & Mrs. Wm Winslow.

In memory of Virginia Brandeberry by Esther Bell, Augustin & Tamara Aguilar, Doris Oval, Michael Pisano, Daniel Millinger, & Sue Holt.

### HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of Virginia Brandeberry by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Olga Zimmerman.

### ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Penny DeWitt.

In memory of Virginia Brandeberry by Penny DeWitt.

### CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Eileen Young, Ruth Cummerow.

### CHOIR FUND

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Louise Diersch, Ron & Joanne Koch, Ilean Labuhn, Miriam Circle,

Betty TenEyck, Marge Bollinger, John & Karen Rowley, MaryEllen Miller.

In memory of Ashley Britt by Gary & Linda Kusian.

### QUILTERS

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Jean DeWitt.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of Virginia Brandeberry by Dick & Lola Crouse, Ruth Circle, Jean DeWitt, Louise & Jim Sommers.

### ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Ethel Rideout by Gene Hagedorn.

## THANK YOU

When any member has a need at First St. John, many members move into action with their goodness and desire to help. That goodness of so many FSJ friends helped to ease the sad loss of our mom and grandmother, Ethel Rideout, in December. Thanks to those who gave memorials in Mom's memory and for the beautiful trays of Christmas cookies many of you baked and donated for the reception. To Penny DeWitt and the church women who generously give their time and efforts on a regular basis to make things go smoothly for not only our family, but others who have suffered the loss of a loved one, we thank you. We appreciate Pastor Rayl for his visits, prayers and support through Mom's difficult last weeks. Mark Ackerman, trustees, and others who took time from their day to serve, your kindness does not go unnoticed. You were all a gift to us.

-- The family of Ethel Rideout

# First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

## Crisis Prayer Chain List

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

**Mike Barhite**  
**Family of Dutch Morrison**  
**Bill Nelson**  
**Dick Ross**  
**Family of Sharon Schnabel**

## Ongoing Concerns

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

**Greg Contat**  
**Fred DuPont**  
**Vicky Felderman**  
**Ethan Fox**  
**Phyllis Frey**  
**Patty Gable**  
**Dick Haar**  
**Jake Haller**  
**Jackie Hubaker**  
**Scott Keller**  
**Connie Koch**  
**Robin Kovesdi**  
**Robin Kruse**  
**Ilean Labuhn**  
**George "Skip" McCullough**  
**Jeanette Miller**  
**Christopher Molnar & Family**  
**Jessica Mueller**  
**Donald Nelson, Sr.**  
**Pam Pirolli**  
**Sheryl Rayl**  
**Michael Rheinbolt & family**  
**Cindy Roecker**  
**Dr. Steve Rowe**  
**Bill Rowland**  
**Rick Schumaker**  
**Brenda Seimet**  
**Caleb Shaffer**  
**John Spoerl**  
**Terry (no last name given)**  
**John Tsaousidis**

**Pat Vogelsang**  
**Julie Woodrum**  
**Tammy Zeisler**  
**Olga Zimmerman**

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



## **ATTENTION REBECCA CIRCLE**

Our next meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, February 6th at 11:30 am. Please check the weather forecast in the days prior to the meeting date. If the weather looks bad, we will cancel. If the weather looks "iffy," call either Emily Kruse or Chris Hunsaker to confirm whether we will be meeting.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP NEWS**



The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

## **DAYSCHOOL FUNDRAISER — ELDER-BEERMAN COUPONS**

Start your spring shopping now! Purchase a coupon booklet for \$5 to shop at Elder-Beerman's during their Community Days Event (February 26-27) and receive coupons worth much more!

Books are on sale in the school or church office. First St John Dayschool receives the \$5, and you receive lots of coupons, so you will get that money back, and then some! Profits will be used to purchase play equipment for the new playground.



**February Fun Facts and Trivia**

**Birth Stone for Someone Born in February?**

February's birthstone is the Amethyst. Amethyst is associated with spirituality, wisdom, sobriety, and security.

**How Many Days in February?**

The month has 29 days in leap years, when the year number is divisible by four. In common years the month has 28 days.

**What is February's Flower?**

Its birth flower is the Viola (plant) and the Primrose.

**What Holidays Are in February?**

Groundhog Day: February 2, United States and Canada

Valentine's Day: February 14

Flag Day of Canada: February 15

Presidents Day (United States, third Monday)



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Vincent Barton who won the "Game On" Walleye Package at the January 10th JAM Sunday School! The package included: four event level seat tickets, \$50 in Walleye Cash, and a special invitation to yell, "GAME ON" before the start of the game!

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** Starting February 7th and continuing throughout the month of February, we will collect money and canned goods to help fund the Lutheran Social Services local food pantry. Lutheran Social Services provides food for over 15,000 people each year. Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchase food for a food pantry. No overhead, no administration costs, just food. A large soup pot will be in the Narthex to collect monetary donations—pocket change, a dollar or two, or whatever you can give—to help Lutheran Social Services provide food for people in need.



Also, get ready for our annual "Can Off!" Grocery carts will also be in the Narthex and the JAM room in the basement of the church for collecting donations of canned goods. The contest is on—it's the congregation vs. the Dayschool children vs. all the Sunday School attendees (JAM, catechism, and adult Sunday School!). Make sure you deposit your canned good donation in the appropriate container so your team gets credit!

**Last year WE collected 638** canned goods to be donated to Lutheran Social Services! Can we DARE to collect 700 THIS YEAR???!!!!!!!



**Trivia Question:** List the names of the Presidents that were born in the month of February.

**Win a Prize** – The first person to email me the correct answer wins a \$10 gift card to Starbucks. Email Jamie at [cedir@firststjohn.com](mailto:cedir@firststjohn.com)



*“I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”*  
John 10:14-15

The Book of John is my favorite book of the Bible. John writes his Gospel to demonstrate the qualities of Jesus that show He is fully human and fully God. In his Gospel, John includes many accounts unique to his book. As a disciple, he was an eye witness to all Jesus said and did. John is considered “the disciple Jesus loved” (John 21:20), and he set about telling others of Jesus’ great love for mankind.

John shares Jesus’ words so we can know just how much Jesus loves us. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, and we are the sheep. If you understand all a shepherd must do for his sheep, then you know how much God loves you. Sheep must be led to green pastures to eat, otherwise they walk about aimlessly. Bubbly, running water scares them, so the shepherd needs to guide them to still waters to drink. The shepherd would anoint their heads with oil to keep the flies off of them. The shepherd was willing to lay down His life for his flock. Our Shepherd *did* lay down His life on a cross for us.

With Valentine’s Day approaching, February is considered the month of love. We share our love with our spouse, children, family and friends. Here at First St. John Dayschool we share that love with the children. First we share God’s love for each of them. Then teachers talk to the children about loving one another, again as John shares in 1 John 4:7-8: *“Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.”* We plant the seeds of love in the hearts of God’s children.

Consider First St. John Dayschool as an environment in which you can watch your child or grandchild grow in God’s love. Registration for our summer and fall programs begins in February for members of the church. Currently, there is no registration fee for church members, but you will want to be registered before the programs open to new students in order to ensure your child has a place in the school.

***Summer and Fall Registration for FSJ Dayschool***

Summer and fall registration for Dayschool begins for members of First St. John Lutheran in February. Currently, members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay no registration fee. The Summer program runs from June 6 – August 5; and the Fall program will begin on August 17. Call the Dayschool at 419-691-6480 for more information and to schedule a tour of the school.

***Kindergarten***

The school board is considering the addition of kindergarten. We have school parents who would very much like to see this program added back to the school, but we are still short of the needed number of students necessary to support this program. If you or someone you know is interested, please pass the word and have them call the school office as soon as possible (419-691-6480). We would like to continue to provide a quality Christian education for our children and a service to our families. Many parents like the idea of their child in one location for childcare and school.

***Community Days Spring Shopping!***

Start your spring shopping now! Purchase a coupon booklet for \$5 to shop at Elder-Beerman’s during their Community Days Event (February 26-27) and receive coupons worth much more! For a complete list of what is included in the booklet, visit [www.communitydayevent.com](http://www.communitydayevent.com). Books are on sale in the school or church office. First St John Dayschool receives the \$5, and you receive lots of coupons, so you will get that money back, and then some! Profits will be used to purchase play equipment for the new playground.

***National Lutheran Schools Week***

NLSW is March 6 – 12, 2016. The theme for the week is “God’s Kids. Our Kids.” As a Lutheran School, we pray, learn, reach out, serve and play together. Teachers and children will be sharing and learning how we are all part of the family of God. There will be an Open House on March 8 to meet the teachers.

— Carol Felderman



**NEW BIBLE STUDY:  
"SEEING THROUGH  
THE SCRIPTURES"**

The Bible can be daunting. How do we make sense of it all? On Sunday, February 14, Pastor Rayl will begin a new Bible study during the Sunday School time, entitled "*See through The Scriptures.*" This study will help make the Bible more accessible by going step-by-step through the entire biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation, putting everything in clear context. This multi-media presentation will help you grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible. You will gain a new appreciation for everything that preceded Jesus in order to more fully understand the deeper meaning of Jesus' ministry and His message of love and servanthood.

Initial registration is limited to the first 25 persons who sign up, due to space limitations. There will also be a contribution of \$10 accepted to help with the cost of the materials.

To register, please call the church office at 419-691-7222, or send an email to [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com). Please make sure you register by Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday).

**DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT  
FOR MEMBERS OF FIRST ST. JOHN**

Summer and fall registration for Dayschool begins for members of First St. John in February. Currently, members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay no registration fee.

The Summer program runs from June 6 – August 5; and the Fall program begins on August 17th. Call the Dayschool at 419-691-6480 for more information and to schedule a tour of the school.

Open enrollment for the general public begins in March. Children who will be 2 ½ years old by August 1, 2016 are eligible to attend. Please call Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 to enroll, schedule a tour, or if you have any other questions.



**SAVE THE DATE  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

First St John Dayschool  
L.E.A.F Festival  
Sunrise Banquet Center  
in Millbury, Ohio

Providing a  
**Loving Educational Atmosphere in Faith**

**Would you like to invest in quality, faith-based, early childhood education for children in your community?**

First St. John Lutheran Dayschool has been providing Christian education to thousands of children since 1976. The first classes were small with only 11 students per session. In no time enrollment soared, and today our Dayschool provides extended care, preschool, and kindergarten each year. The program has established a reputation of excellence in the community, and we look forward to serving many more children in the years ahead.

We always want the best for our students. Our biggest need is for a new playground and outside learning center, along with some vital repairs to the classroom building. Our hope is also to invest in technology items to keep up with the ever-changing world around us.

Our first L.E.A.F. Festival was fun for all who attended! We are now excited to be able to bring back the Dueling Pianos and another fun, festive evening. To do that takes a lot of time and work. We are looking for financial supporters, donations of goods, and volunteers. If you can help us, please call the school office at 419-691-6480 and offer your services. However you can help will be greatly appreciated!

Plan on joining us in giving our children the best start in their education at First St. John Lutheran Dayschool.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 19th**

