



First St. John Journal



Volume 29, Issue 1

January, 2016

It's a classic Peanuts cartoon. Charlie Brown says to Lucy, "Someone has said that we should live each day as if it were the last day of our life."

"Aaugh!" cries Lucy. "This is the last day! This is it!" She dashes away screaming, "I only have 24 hours left! Help me! Help me! This is the last day! Aaugh!"

"Some philosophies," says Charlie Brown, "aren't for all people."

Living each day as if it were the last day of our life is not a bad philosophy. Living each day as if it were the first day of our life might be a better one. This is a new year with exciting new possibilities. The old year is gone. The mistakes we made and the obstacles we have overcome are now in the past. A new year has arrived.

Motivational speaker Danny Cox tells about a Broom Hilda cartoon in which her troll-like, naive, innocent little friend Irwin puts on a long-tailed formal tuxedo jacket, picks up a conductor's baton and walks into the woods alone. Irwin steps up on a fallen tree trunk and begins to wave his arms as if to conduct. There are no musicians, only rocks, trees and flowers. Soon, musical notes pour from the rocks, trees and flowers and fill the panel. Finally, Irwin turns and confidently says to the reader, "It's all in there; you just have to work at getting it out."

As we look at the new year that has just arrived, we know it is filled with all kinds of possibilities: "They're all in there; we just have to work at getting them out."

Just one week ago we celebrated the anniversary of the Son of God coming into the neighborhood of our world. Jesus became one with us and he made it possible for us to become one with him. But we have heard the story so many times that we can easily pack away the Christmas decorations without

allowing ourselves to feel much of anything other than nostalgia -- or even relief that we are going back to a normal routine. So today, we return to the events surrounding the Bethlehem story one more time before we move out of the holidays and into a new year. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul reminds us of what the implications are for us that Jesus moved into the neighborhood of planet Earth.

Galatians 4:4-7 – "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God."

"Do you think the world is better today than it was 2,000 years ago?" This was a question always asked by the great philanthropist Stanley S. Kresge, founder of K-Mart. His former pastor from First United Methodist Church in Detroit, Dr. William Quick, believed the answer to this was yes, the world is better off, because Jesus and his teachings lie behind all efforts that improve the lives of people. We see the principles that have most positively impacted the world are in line with the teachings of Jesus, regardless of what other forces may have also been involved in bringing about the changes.

It is also Jesus who will whisper our purpose for 2016. It will be Jesus who will plant in our hearts and minds the clarity and conviction to enable us to get out of the year all the possibilities that will guide our lives in moving our world further along the way that leads to the Kingdom of God.

It is Jesus who has given us a new way of life, a new standard of conduct, and a new power for living.

Are we ready to accept this responsibility? Are we ready to be forgiven so that we might forgive others?

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

12-4-15 *Krishan Rajendra Holston*, born to Kaneil and Sandhya (Joshi) Holston

Baptisms

12-6-15 *Adeline Sue Vaculik*, born October 3, 2015 to Thomas and Kimberly (Beavers) Vaculik. Her parents are her sponsors.

12-6-15 *Tyler Reese*, born June 26, 2002. Parents and sponsors are Fred and Dena (Romstadt) Reese.

Marriages

None

Deaths

12-3-15 Ethel Rideout

12-25-15 Virginia Brandeberry

Transfers to First St. John

Norm and Sue Shank from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green.

Transfers from First St. John

None.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our next men's breakfast fellowship will be held on Saturday, January 9th at 8:00 am at the Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. We have snowbirds down south, so we have plenty of room for you and a friend to join us. Any questions or if you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. See you there!

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2016 offering envelopes are in the lounge through January. They are in alphabetical order. Envelopes are prepared for confirmed members of First St. John and friends (upon request). If a husband and wife share offering envelopes, only the husband's name will appear on the envelope box.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES



Please use the form on the bottom of this page to notify the church office of your change of address. The church pays a fee each time the post office sends mail back. You can also call the office at 419-691-7222 or email: office@firststjohn.com

Helen Barton
1833 Circle Dr. SW
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Marilyn Daly
3248 Yorktown Dr. Apt. D
Oregon, OH 43616



ZUMBA!

Zumba classes begin again on Tuesday, January 12th in our gym. "Awesome Abs" class begins at 6:00 pm, and regular Zumba class begin at 6:30 pm. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

For questions or more info, contact Marlene at marszumba@gmail.com

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep information for office records current, please notify the office of any changes to your name, address, or phone: **Fax:** (419-691-7220) **Mail** this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or **Email:** office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

ELDERS FOR JANUARY

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
3rd	Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow
10th	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy	Sherrie Haar Bob Haar
17th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd
24th	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow	Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick
31st	Sherrie Haar Bob Haar	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy

CONSTITUTION COPIES AVAILABLE

We've had several requests lately to view the new constitution for First St. John. Copies can be found in the Narthex.



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Our new officers and members for 2016 are listed below:

Officers:

Emily Kruse	President
Beth Hugueley	Vice President
Joanne Crandall	Secretary
Jane Schuetz	Treasurer
Linda Kusian	Supply Co-Chairman
Penny DeWitt	Supply Co-Chairman
Cathy Caldwell	Flower Chairman

Members: Kris Abel, Pam Beavers, Peggy Burke, Dianne Burnette, Michelle Gaskins, Beth Hodges, Claudia Patchen, DeDe Ruedy, Carol Schwegler, Debbie Smith, and Joyce Yard

Alternate: Brenda Fussell

Thank you to all our members. We appreciate the work you did and continue to do to serve your church.

ELECTION RESULTS



Dear Congregational Members,

The church council appreciates your time in attending and voting at the congregational meeting in December. The outcome of the meeting gave approval for the budget. Thank you to everyone who ran for council. Please welcome our newly elected council members:

Elders: Tom Gaskins, Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd, Terry Ruedy

Finance Committee: Lisa Anderson, Gloria Ross, and John & LuAnn Spoerl

Property Management: John Roth, Dave Warnke (Dave will fill out vacant trustee position)

Sunday School Board of Education: Darlene Paul

Dayschool Board of Education: Chuck Hyre, Donna Koenker

According to the church constitution, when the president's position has not yet been filled, the current president may serve for up to six months more until a new president can be found, so Keith Mullen will remain as president until June.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All newly elected and incumbent members of Church Council, Dayschool Board, WELCA, and Altar Guild should plan to attend church on Sunday, January 10th. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2016 duties.

ATTENTION 2015 & 2016 COUNCIL, DAYSCHOOL BOARD, WELCA, & ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS

If you've finished your term, please turn in your church keys and access cards (for the Educational Building). If you are new and need an access card and/or keys, please see Toni in the church office.

Note: All access cards should be returned—they cannot be handed to new officers because the numbers on the back are tied to a specific person in the computer.

MEMORIALS

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Esther Bell.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by the Ruth Circle, Jean DeWitt, Joe & Valerie Buffy, Itzenith & David Zielinski, Ken & Gail Howell, Chuck & Jane Neal, Gwen & Tim Willson, Karen Frey, Jeanne Winzeler, Ada Kreger, the Danekind Family.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by Gene Hagedorn.
In memory of **Wilson Roecker** by Gene Hagedorn.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by Marge Bollinger, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Marilyn Cashen, Gayle Martinez, Evanka & Kathy Dimitroff, Mary Mortemore, Mark & Debra Ackerman, Donna Spychala, Gloria Ross, Darlene Lorenzen.

DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by Mike & Donna Winslow.

BEREAVEMENT

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by the Danekind Family.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Etta & Roy Rideout** by Georgia Huebner.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Doris Danekind** by Penny DeWitt.

ATTENTION: THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY MEMBERS

We will begin meeting again on Thursday, January 7th at 11:00 am. Please mark your calendars. Everyone is welcome!

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This scholarship helps members of First St. John who will attend college for the 2016/2017 school year.

Applications are in the church office. Deadline for returning completed applications is March 30th. We must receive the applications in the church office by March 30th to be considered.

Money is supplied from proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

WELCA NEWS

The 2016 Rosters will be available soon in the lounge. Our next board meeting is Monday, January 18th at 6:30 pm.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Whenever you are finished using any room in the Church or Educational Building, please remember to turn out the lights in the room you were using, as well as the hallway lights if you're the last group out at night. Also check that the lights in the restrooms are off, too. (The only lights that remain on are in the staircases by the exit doors. These are left on for security reasons.) Thank you for helping us try to save electricity.

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2016

In Luke 2, Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple and He receives a blessing from both Simeon and Anna. Blessings are very important to us.

On Sunday, January 17th we will have the opportunity to come as a family (and yes, one person is a family in God's eyes) and receive a blessing from the pastor. You can come up with different people in your extended family (you and your spouse, you and your daughter's family, etc.) as many times as you want. What a special way to begin 2016!

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

With the New Year comes the opportunity to begin new things. One of these for the folks at First St. John is the invitation to make 2016 the year we join together in reading the entire Bible.

Many of us have made a commitment at the start of a year that this is the year we will actually read through the entire Bible. We do it for a week or two, or even a month or two, but then something comes up. We miss a day, catch up, miss another day or three, and break the habit.

Hopefully, if we make this commitment as a group it will be easier to accomplish. We can receive fantastic benefits from spending time with God's Word each day. Every two months, this newsletter will contain a new eight-week chart that contains the selected passages from the Bible to be read each day. Our first chart follows on the next page. (If you receive your newsletter by email, it will be a separate attachment.)

The One Year Bible daily reading plan has passages from the Old and New Testaments, Psalms and Proverbs. This Scripture arrangement 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 link to the passages to be read.

Here is a prayer that can be used each day before beginning to read: "Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen."

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER

The January–March Portals of Prayer is available for pick up in the lounge, Chapel, Narthex, and the caddy through the door by the choir loft. This is a daily devotional book, free to anyone who wants it.

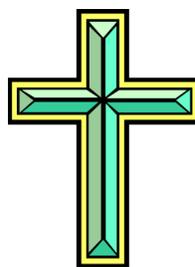
OUR CHURCH CUSTODIAN



After 35 years of service to First St. John, Gene Hagedorn has announced his retirement at the end of June, 2016. The church trustees will be working on finding a replacement in the coming months. Thank you, Gene, for your many years of faithful dedication and hard work!

TREASURER POSITION FILLED

First St. John's new church treasurer is Julie Gallaher. Julie has been a member of First St. John for ten years. She is the current Dayschool treasurer and has had extensive financial experience working in the banking industry. She will take over the position on January 1st. Thanks, Julie!



PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

Are we ready to receive God's peace, that we might be at peace with others?
Are we ready to elevate the status of those considered unworthy, just as we have been elevated?

Are we willing to live with a different standard of conduct, a different power, and a different way of life? The Apostle Paul continues to challenge the followers of Christ;

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:11)

May we all have a blessed and happy New Year.

— Pastor Rayl

FIRST ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN

(as of 12/29/15)

Crisis Prayer List: For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to the Chronic list after the first month unless someone is contacted about special circumstances:

**Greg Contat
Dick Haar
Robin Kruse
Ilean Labuhn
Family of Joe Leduc
Dutch Morrison
Bill Nelson
Family of Ethel Rideout
John Spoerl
Terry (no last name given)**

Chronic Prayer List: For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Will be moved off the list after 3 months unless someone is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

**Chuck Bartlett
Jackie & Tina Curtis
Vicky Felderman
Phyllis Frey
Patty Gable
Jake Haller
Jackie Hubaker
Scott Keller
Connie Koch
Robin Kovesdi
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar and his family
Jessica Mueller
Donald Nelson, Sr.
Pam Pirolli
Sheryl Rayl
Michael Rheinbolt and family
Cindy Roecker
Dick Ross
Dr. Steve Rowe
Bill Rowland
Rick Schumaker
Nancy Schwab-Ketner
Brenda Seimet
John Tsaousidis
Pat Vogelsang**

**Julie Woodrum
Tammy Zeisler**

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts (see 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



QUILTING TIME!

The Quilting Group meets each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge beginning Monday, January 4th and running through Monday, March 28th. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of a quilt together (all you need to know is how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, they follow Oregon Schools for cancellations.

Most of the quilts made will be donated to Lutheran World Relief and local charities. If you would like to sew quilting blocks at home or if you have any questions, please call Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822. Thank you.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Dinner With Friends is back. Join us on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. Menu includes various chili recipes, bread, and dessert. Come on out to have dinner with your friends from First St. John! Please RSVP using the slip below if you want to attend and place it in the offering plate or call the office at 419-691-7222. See you soon!

*Yes! I/we will attend Dinner With Friends
on January 20th*

Name _____

Phone _____

From Jamie's Desk

Happy New Year! 7 New Year's Resolutions Every Family Should Make in 2016

Here's a great article written by Caroline Knorr on www.common sense media.org Enjoy!

There are two types of people in the world: New Year's resolution makers and "let's-just-wing-it" types. Whichever category you fall into, our media resolutions (or "suggestions" for the latter group) are designed to be easy, fun, totally doable, and family-strengthening. And whether you're a planner or a play-it-by-ear person, your family will undoubtedly face media and technology issues in 2016 as they become more ubiquitous, affordable, and essential to daily life. There's a lot to look forward to-- and a lot to manage. Consider one or more of these New Year's resolutions, and you'll weather anything that comes your way.

Focus on content quality, not screen-time quantity. It's not that screen time doesn't matter (kids need a balance of activities for healthy development). But trying to tally up all the minutes your kids spend in front of a screen-- and feeling guilty when they go "over"-- helps nothing. This year, focus on becoming actively engaged in your kids' media. Help them make quality, age-appropriate choices, play or watch together when you can, and talk about any issues that come. Some days they may spend a little more time on the computer learning to code, but the next day they may end up making crafts all day. It balances out.

Play a game with your kid. Maybe you love video games, maybe you'd rather do just about anything else. The point is, kids love games. There's a certain kind of bond that develops when families compete. Plus, it's fun. Playing games with your kids also imparts important skills such as taking turns, winning and losing gracefully, and practicing good sportsmanship. Look for video games the entire family can enjoy.

Learn something online. Make this the year you *finally* learn to crochet, play guitar, or master a foreign language-- whatever you've longed to do. With so many opportunities for online learning, from casual how-to's to formal lessons, there's no excuse not to. Your kids will see you work toward a goal, manage your time, be patient with yourself, and discover you're not perfect at everything. Bonus points for taking a class with your kid!

Embrace the next new thing. At some point this year, a killer app, viral video, or hot new show will take your kids by storm. Keep an open mind and explore this new thing along with them. You'll learn more about what your kids are doing, how they can safely use new tools, and

how to guide them through a changing landscape.

Ask: What's your favorite new app, game, or website? What do you like about it? How can you make sure you're using it responsibly, respectfully, and safely?

Do some good. Show your kids the real power of the Web is in how it can connect those in need to those who can help out. In addition to traditional charities, there are sites that let you target your gift to specific donors, find volunteer opportunities, promote causes you believe in, and even let your kids lead the charge.

Stop texting and driving. Nobody wants to admit it, but the accident statistics tell the real story: We are still texting and driving. Not only is it dangerous, it also sends a bad message to your kids when you ignore the law. Consider an app that temporarily disables the phone when you're driving (and install one on your kid's phone, too).

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Thank you to all who helped with Project Give-a-Blessing. Your generosity as a congregation is AMAZING! We all should feel so BLESSED to be part of this wonderful church family!

Thank you to all who helped with our Annual Christmas Program, "The Birth of Jesus." Special Acknowledgments go to:

Susie Skorupa: Sound Woman

Gene Hagedorn: Riser setup

JAM Teachers: Sue Ann Rogers, Deb Ladd, Susan Tilton, Darlene Paul

Olivia & Susan Tilton: Their artistic talent for "The Inn" sign.

Toni Wilbarger, Lori Pfeiffer, Darlene and Larry Paul: All of their support, ironing, and creativity!

Dads & Moms: Help with setup, costumes, and your wonderful children

I look forward to 2016 and the AMAZING things our church will accomplish!!!

Special Announcement About JAM!

We will be on break until January 10. On THAT day, we'll have a special "WELCOME 2016" raffle, which includes 4 Event Level seat tickets to a Walleye game, \$50 in Walleye Cash, and a special invitation to yell, "GAME ON" before the game starts! You must be present to win!

8 Join us as we get the New Year off to a great start!

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year!

As I begin 2016, I truly feel like I am beginning a new phase in my life. I now have my own home here in Ohio, and my husband is here with me. Getting settled will take awhile as I have so much that has been packed away for years as we were traveling about. It was easier just to move the boxes rather than unpack and try to find places for things in a new home when I knew I wasn't staying for long. I will be sorting through and ridding myself of things I have not seen or used in years. I will have a whole year of opening surprises!

God expects us to do some of that same sorting and ridding in our life as well. We are to rid ourselves of the sins we often commit. Through the years we develop bad habits, which modern society really does not call sin. We become slack in our study of the Bible. Sometimes I think, "Oh, I know all that. I studied at a Lutheran University, taking Doctrine and other Biblical classes." Yet I find myself, because of years of experiences, discovering new meaning and understanding in old familiar verses.

Driving to Virginia Beach this past November, I experienced God guiding me along the way. I got a late start and barely made it out of Ohio before nightfall. It was a clear night with a full moon. The moonlight chased away the deep darkness of driving through the hills of West Virginia and started me thinking of how the star guided the Magi across the desert to the new born Savior. It was my Epiphany! It reminded me of my trip to Bethlehem where Jesus began his life on earth, and to Jerusalem where Jesus gave up his life for all of us. God shows us things throughout our journey on earth. We just need to keep our focus off our stuff (which is why I need to give away some things) and focus on the Lord of Life!

All this brings me back to how God set things in motion for me to get the position as Administrator here at First St. John DaySchool. God does have a plan for our lives, though it often seems difficult to understand when we are going through hard times. 1 Peter 1:8-9 says "*Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy.*"

As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls." How wonderful God never gives up on us, even when we let Him down so often. Thank you, First St. John, for your support my first few months here.

— Carol Felderman

First St. John Dayschool 2016-2017 School Year

The School Board has been working to get programs and prices in place for the next school year. We want to keep our great teachers, yet offer more for our families. Because of many uncertainties last year, the Board chose not to offer the kindergarten program. This year, a number of parents asked us to reconsider that move, and we are. If you would be interested in enrolling your child in our kindergarten program or know someone who would be interested, please contact the school at 419-691-6480 as soon as possible so plans can move forward quickly. Without sufficient support, we cannot afford to offer the additional program. We will continue both our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs, as well as Extended Care. Early enrollment for church families will begin in February.

Plans also include continuing the summer program. We know parents are always looking for quality programs for their children. Watch for more information on when the program will begin!

Save the Date!

September 17, 2016 is the date for the next LEAF Festival! Many of you enjoyed the Dueling Pianos from the last event, so we are hoping more of you will have the opportunity to hear them this year. This event is a major fundraiser for the school.

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
January 22nd**



FIRST ST. JOHN COUNCIL MINUTES—DECEMBER 15, 2015

The December 15, 2015 meeting was called to order by President Keith Mullen. Pastor Rayl opened the meeting with devotions. Roll call was taken. Lori Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting; Mike Winslow seconded. Motion carried.

Director of Faith Development / Sunday School:

Jamie Blazeovich reported that the kids' Christmas play turned out awesome. The kids had a birthday party for Jesus after the play. Thanks to all who helped.

Sunday School will be on break until January 10th. To entice regular attendance after a break like this, they will have a special "need to be present to win" raffle. The raffle prize will include four event-level seat tickets to a Toledo Walleye game, \$50 in Walleye Cash, and a special invitation to yell, "Game On!" before the start of the game.

All gifts for the Project Give-A-Blessing were delivered today. Thank you to all who donated.

Thanks also to all who greeted the parents for the Dayschool Christmas plays. It's always nice when the church and school support one another. The Prayer Buddy program for the JAM and Dayschool teachers is going well.

Elders: Darold Henninger reported everything is in order for the holiday services.

Property Management: Andy Hodges reported the lights in the sign out front have been changed to LED. Also, they are watching a water leak in the gym to see where it's coming from.

Finance Committee / Treasurer Report: Chris Hunsaker reported things are looking very well as we come to the end of the year. A motion was made by Lori Pfeiffer and seconded by LuAnn Spoerl that we hire Julie Gallaher as the church treasurer. Motion passed. Thanks, Julie, for stepping up!

Dayschool: Carol Felderman reported the Dayschool's yearly inspection is coming up next month and things are in great shape. She reported that the Thanksgiving feasts and the Christmas programs went very well. She wishes to thank everyone who helped with these events.

Pastor: Norman and Susan Shank wish to transfer their membership to First St. John from St. Mark's Lutheran in Bowling Green. Lori Pfeiffer motioned and Dick Haar seconded to accept the transfer. Motion passed. Welcome, Norm and Sue!

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bob Haar made a motion to allow the Finance Committee to set up a special account for the roof replacement, which was seconded by Mike Winslow. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori Pfeiffer and seconded by Dave Wilbarger. Motion passed. Pastor Rayl led us in saying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Mullen
Council President

THANK YOU



In 2015 we again conducted a monthly ministry focus. Church members used special envelopes in the pews to give. The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) also donated to some of these. The following are the causes we were able to help in 2015:

Lutheran Social Services (Souper Bowl of Caring)
Luther Home of Mercy
The Daughter Project
Lutheran Disaster Response
Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission
First St. John's Member Assistance Fund
Personal Needs Pantry
ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Altogether, we raised over \$4,500. This represents your labors of love to help the needy in our area. THANK YOU very much for your generosity.

Special Notice: WELCA also donated the \$5,100 profit from the annual Chicken & Ham Dinner to First St. John's Capital Improvement / Roof Fund.