



First St. John Journal



Volume 29, Issue 4

April, 2016

There is a story Dr. Fred Craddock once told about an annual Easter tradition at a church in Georgia. Every year on Easter Sunday the church was decorated with 500 Easter lilies! The lilies were arranged on the chancel in the shape of a cross, placed in each window of the church, across the altar rail, and across the front of the baptistry. Literally everywhere you looked on Easter morning, you saw Easter lilies! Each year, members of the church were given the opportunity to have one of the lilies placed there in honor or memory of a loved one for a contribution of \$5. Imagine--only five bucks and you didn't even have to take them home with you after the service. The church would dispose of them. Everyone assumed they were taken to shut-ins and hospitals.

All went well until one Easter Sunday after the service when a dear, sweet lady went back into the sanctuary after church. "I have an aunt who is in a nursing home," she said, "so if you don't mind, I'd like to take my lily to her. I'll just pick one out." Before anyone could stop her, she took one of the Easter lilies out of the window next to where she was standing. And in a voice loud enough to be heard in the most distant reaches of the church parking lot, she exclaimed with horror and dismay, "Oh, my God! It's plastic!" People rushed back into the sanctuary and began looking closely at the Easter lilies, only to discover that every last one of them was plastic!

There was a board meeting called for the next night. The pastor and the chairman of the board felt as if they were facing a firing squad, as one church member after another shot questions at them. "Just how long has this been going on?" "Where do you hide 500 plastic Easter lilies?" And the one question asked repeatedly: "What happened to all those \$5 contributions?"

The chairman tried to explain that the money had not been used for dishonest purposes, and each year half the money raised from Easter lily donations was placed in the general fund of the church.

The other half was sent to denominational headquarters to be used to finance mission work in Africa and South America and other places around the world. The pastor chimed in and said, "Yes, and do you know what usually happens to real Easter lilies, after the Easter Sunday service? Most people just take them home and water them for a few days until the blooms fall off. Then they are thrown away. We thought that was a terrible waste, and you wouldn't want to waste Easter, would you?"

That's a good question. Certainly no one wants to waste Easter. But how easy it is to let it pass by us and slip out of our lives. It can help to remember that on our worship calendar, Easter is not just one day. Rather, it is a season of seven weeks, and throughout the year every Sunday is considered to be a "mini-Easter" celebration.

The words of the Apostle Paul are helpful to keep in mind: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4)

Understanding the wonderful implications of this truth, Martin Luther taught in the Small Catechism: ". . . the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." (Explanation for Holy Baptism, section IV)

Hopefully we will not be like the woman who, while unloading a large basket full of Easter candy was asked by the clerk, "Well, it looks like someone is really into the Easter spirit!" To which the lady replied without a second thought, "Yeah, for my family it's more about the candy than about Jesus."



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Our annual rummage sale will be Thursday, May 5th (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) and Friday, May 6th (10:00 am to 1:00 pm).

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 27th. *NOTE: If you will need the elevator to bring your items to the gym, please try to wait until Monday, May 2nd to bring them, if possible.* Please place items on the gym stage, not on the Day School lunch tables.

Item drop-off times during the week of the sale are Monday, May 2nd – Wednesday, May 4th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and also on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. *NOTE: In order for us to be ready to open the sale on Thursday morning, we regret that we cannot accept any more donated items after 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 4th.*

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.

APRIL ELDER SCHEDULE

	7:45 am	10:15 am
3rd	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy	Sherrie Haar Bob Haar
10th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazevich	Dick Haar Jeff Ladd
17th	Darold Henninger Mike Winslow	Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick
24th	Sherrie Haar Bob Haar	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First St. John will hold a special congregational meeting after both services on Sunday, April 10th in order to discuss replacing the roof on both the church and educational buildings. Please plan to attend.

PEWS IN PARSONAGE

Years ago, pews were removed from the front of the church to make room for the Christmas tree, bell choir tables, piano, etc. These pews have been stored in the parsonage, and they are still in good shape. They can be cleaned easily and have no water damage.

If you would like to own one or more of these pews, please contact the church office. We are asking for a donation that will be put toward the fund for replacing the church roof.



MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES

Bill & Ashlee Fisher
557 Sky Way Dr.
Oregon, OH 43616
(Mason, Marcus)

Dorothy Zeadker
Lane Park Room 102
3450 Seaman Rd.
Oregon, OH 43616

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

3-1-16 *Aiden Richard Hagedorn,*
born to Nicholas and Lauren
(Matheney) Hagedorn.

3-3-16 *Emilia Faye Langenderfer,*
born to Victor and Meghan
(Fussell) Langenderfer.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None

Deaths

3-18-16 Mildred Hancock

Transfers to/from First St. John

None.

READERS NEEDED



We need volunteers to read the scriptures at the early 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. 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

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD, WELCA

The WELCA Roster had an incorrect phone number for Sue Ann Rogers. Please correct your copies to read: 419-280-1310. Thank you.

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 Day 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.



Our April ministry focus is The Daughter Project. This organization helps victims recover from the trauma of sex trafficking and works to help prevent others from being trafficked. Holistic healing services are provided in an extremely safe, home-like environment to victims who have been freed from sex traffickers. Caring and competent professionals as well as volunteers provide abuse and addiction counseling, medical care, educational services, and spiritual mentoring.

On Sunday, April 17th, Jeff Wilbarger, Director of The Daughter Project, will join us during our worship services to share information about this vital effort to help these victims. If you would like to donate to this important ministry, please use the specially marked envelopes in the pews. Thank you.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING SOON

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 20 through Thursday, June 23. Our theme is Cave Quest—Where kids explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love. Cave Quest is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids will love. Join us on a cave adventure as we discover The Light of the World.

Abbie Masserant is our Vacation Bible School coordinator, and her contact information will follow soon. Please pray and ask God what HE might want you to do to help with VBS. We need many volunteers, and we pray you will join us on our Cave Quest. 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!

MEMORIALS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In memory of **Jack Nissen** by Elaine Gladieux, Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of **Dorothy Kreszowski** by Louise & Jim Sommers.

In memory of **Lee Schwiefert** by Louise & Jim Sommers, Jerry & Ginny Nissen.

In memory of **Carl "Dutch" Morrison** by John & Janice VanSant, Jerry & Ginny Nissen.

In memory of **Dan Mutchler** by Gloria Ross.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Jack Nissen** by Norm Schumaker, Jim & Dolores Schimming, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Deborah Lofquist, Tom, Sandy and Kevin Garverick, Ruth Cummerow, Jan & Donna Koenker, Karen Frey, Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Larry & Darlene Paul.

In memory of **Lee Schwiefert** by Jan & Donna Koenker.

In memory of **Jim Hecklinger** by Karen Frey.

In memory of **Mildred Hancock** by Jean DeWitt.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Jack Nissen** by Catherine Lannen, Marge Bollinger.

In memory of **Lee Schwiefert** by Raj & Linda Joshi, Terry & Jane Schuetz, James & Peggy Burke, Kendra Kec, Marilyn Cashen, Marilyn Skotynsky, Janet Morrison.

In memory of **Ethel Rideout** by W. Alan Robertson.

In memory of **Dorothy Kreszowski** by Larry & Joyce Ulery, Pat Aumiller, Rose Heise, James & Julie Swanson, Esther Bell, Ruth Zasada Janine Contat, Janet Morrison, Eileen Young.

In honor of **Sandra Stahl's** 75th birthday by M/M John Hotz.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Jack Nissen** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of **Jack Nissen** by Winona Wohlgamuth.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Lee Schwiefert** by Penny DeWitt.

In memory of **Dorothy Kreszowski** by June Might.

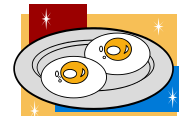
ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Dorothy Kreszowski** by Gene Hagedorn.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of **Carl "Dutch" Morrison** by Nancy Gallaher.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our Men's Breakfast Fellowship will meet Saturday, April 2nd at 8:00 a.m. at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

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 welcome. 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 big blue bin in the lounge underneath the side tables. Thank you.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We will not have Sunday School on April 3rd. Classes will resume Sunday, April 10th at 9:00 am.

ANNUAL CARD PARTY

The 25th annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 12th at noon. Tallies are \$8. For reservations call either the church office at 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.



MINISTRY "WRAP-UPS"

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING — We were challenged to meet a goal of collecting 700 food items the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry (as part of our Souper Bowl of Caring that began in February). We did it! In fact, we donated WAY over our goal, collecting 935 items!!! We also collected nearly \$300 to add to our donations to Lutheran Social Services. Congratulations to all our church members, JAM students, and Dayschool families who participated. Thank you VERY much!

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY — Our March Ministry Outreach was the Personal Needs Pantry. We collected many donations of items (total TBA), and we raised \$480 for the pantry. Thank you!

QUILTING — Our Quilting Group finished their quilting for the year. An average of 16 attended each week and they completed 231 quilts! Thanks to the home sewers who got the quilt tops and backs ready so they could be completed at a good pace! Thanks to all who helped. Most of the quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief, but we have also donated locally to the following: M Bayer Clinic, Homeless on Genesee, Emaus Center, Dialysis in Oregon, the Bed Ministry in Monroe Michigan, and the children's wing of Toledo Hospital. Some of the quilts will be on display in church on Mother's Day.

**COMING SOON:
ALL-DAUGHTER BANQUET**

Join us for our All-Daughter Banquet on Saturday, May 14th at 12:30 pm in the gym (the elevator will be available). Wonderful entertainment and great food! Reservations begin soon. Gentlemen, we need your help, too. Lots of fun for all, so mark your calendars!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Thursday Bible Study resumes on Thursday, April 7th at 11:00 am in the lounge. See you then!

MEN'S DARTBALL NEWS

Congratulations to First St. John's Dartball Team #2 that won the Lutheran Men's Dartball League on March 21st. Team #1, who won the tournament on March 7th, finished second place in the league. The Dartball Banquet is Monday, April 18th at 6:30 pm at St. Lucas Lutheran Church.



CHURCH SPORTS INFO NEEDED

Our church sports archivist, Bob Haar, is still looking for photos and articles of First St. John sports teams throughout their many decades of athletic competition. An album will be ready to view in the church library beginning sometime in September. If you would to share a memory, please call Bob at 419-250-9409 or email him at bobhaar@yahoo.com

DINNER WITH FRIENDS— APRIL 6th



Our next dinner is Wednesday, April 6th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. Our menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverage. Come on out to have dinner with your friends from First St. John! If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office either by phone: 419-691-7222 or email: office@firststjohn.com

HELP WANTED



The L.E.A.F. (Loving Educational Atmosphere in Faith) committee is seeking volunteers for many positions as we prepare for our second LEAF Festival on September 17th. (Proceeds will go toward purchasing equipment, fencing, and landscaping for the new playground.)

The volunteer meeting will be April 7th at 7 p.m. We need help from set up to clean up, and many jobs in between! Jobs are many, such as making telephone calls, gathering donations, making baskets, selling tickets, decorating cookies, typing programs and decorating tables. Come help us with the planning and share your special talents! If you can help, please contact Karen Holmes 419-691-3225 or Carol Felderman 419-691-6480.

But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he (Jesus) said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" Luke 24:16-19

These are words from the story of the two believers who were walking from Jerusalem to their village of Emmaus. They had been in Jerusalem for the Passover, as were hundreds of other pilgrims. They had seen and heard all the events of those days. They had their sights set on Jesus as the One who was to come and rescue Israel, and they were probably quite disappointed with his crucifixion. All they really saw at that point was confusion and sadness because it seemed their hopes had been dashed.

Sometimes God allows us to go through things because we cannot learn any other way. Jesus, at this point a stranger to the believers, walked them through the writings of Moses and the prophets; He explained what the Scriptures meant concerning himself. It seems they were blind, as we sometimes are. Those writings were available to them as they are to us, but too often we do not see things because our thoughts are focused on ourselves and the difficulties we are going through.

When we take our eyes off ourselves, we can get a better perspective. An example is a friend who lost her job. She was feeling very depressed and wondered how she would manage to meet her obligations. While she was job hunting several of us suggested she volunteer somewhere. She finally decided to volunteer at the Red Cross. Through her volunteer work she met many different people, and in a few months she was working in a job she came to love more than the one she lost. God works in mysterious ways!

I have often been told to be careful what I ask for since I just might get it, but usually not in the way I had planned. I prayed for patience and foolishly expected God to magically give it to me... I did not think He would put me through a number of trials that I might learn patience. First St. John Day School has gone through a number of changes this past year.

God is molding us into the school He wants us to be; perhaps we are not growing the way we had planned, but we are growing in the way God is planning!

My Easter prayer is that we all renew our faith and trust in Jesus and confess, "He is risen indeed!"



Thank you for your support! In the past few years participation in *Labels for Education*® has declined and, as a result, Campbell's has come to the very difficult decision to wind down the *Labels for Education* program. Because of that, we are looking to gather all the labels we can find and send them off by the end of June. In December we used most of our points to order a \$350 VISA gift card. This was used to purchase new CD players and classroom supplies. If we can collect 5,000 labels, we can order another \$100 gift card. Send in all your labels soon, especially Pepperidge Farm labels since those bring us extra points!

L.E.A.F. Help Wanted

The L.E.A.F. committee is seeking volunteers for many positions as we prepare for our second L.E.A.F. Festival on September 17th. A volunteer meeting will be Thursday, April 7th at 7 pm. We need help from set up to clean up and many jobs in between! Jobs are many and varied, such as making telephone calls, gathering donations, making baskets, selling tickets, decorating cookies, typing programs and decorating tables. Come help us with the planning and share your special talents! Contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 if you can help.

Summer and Fall Registration for FSJ Dayschool

Summer and fall registration is underway. Currently, members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children with no registration fee. Classes are available for 3 and 4 year old children, as well as Kindergarten. Extended Care is available for all children. 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/or to schedule a tour.

First St. John Prayer Chain

(as of March 30, 2016)

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:

**Dave Bell
Teresa Ellis
Penny Klawitter
Connie Koch
Family of Dick Ross**

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:

**Brant Anderson
Mike Barhite
Amanda Combs
Greg Contat
Jackie Curtis
Dorothy Felderman
Lynn & Cory Folk
Patty Gable
Jake Haller
Rose Hensley
Jackie Hubaker
Robin Kovesdi
Ilean Labuhn
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar & his family
Willie Moritz
Jessica Mueller
Bill Nelson
Donald Nelson, Sr.
Alice Osburn
Emily Paszcykowski
Pam Pirolli
Gene Price
Sheryl Rayl
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Cindy Roecker
Dr. Steve Rowe
Rick Schumaker
Brenda Seimet
Caleb Shaffer
John Spoerl**

**Joan Tilton
John Tsaousidis
Pat Vogelsang
Bill Wiener
Olga Zimmerman**

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 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.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION® ENDING

Campbell's has decided to wind down the *Labels for Education* program. Because of that, First St. John's Dayschool is looking to gather as many labels as possible and send them by the end of June. In December we used most of our points for a \$350 VISA gift card. This was used to purchase new CD players and classroom supplies. If we can collect 5,000 labels, we can order a \$100 gift card. Send in all your labels soon, especially Pepperidge Farm labels since those bring us extra points!