
☘ First St. John Journal ☘

Volume 29, Issue 3

March, 2016

Living between two time zones is not easy at times. For a number of years, my family lived in Richmond, Indiana when Indiana was not on Daylight Savings. Richmond is on the border with Ohio, so every year we had to remember if an event was in either Ohio or Indiana so we could make the switch between the two time zones.

I thought of this situation when I considered the words of the Apostle Paul as he characterized our Easter faith as living at the intersection of two worlds, between two zones. Paul urges us to choose the heavenly world to take our directions from. Paul is like a trainer, a coach, encouraging us as Christians to reorient our lives because of Jesus:

*"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory."
(Colossians 3:1-4).*

Paul tells us to center our lives around the risen Christ who's now exalted in heaven. Because Jesus has been raised from the dead, nothing remains on earth adequate for us to build our lives upon.

When Paul says to set your minds on the things above, he doesn't mean withdraw from earthly life. These four short verses in Colossians are surrounded by Paul's instructions on how and how not to live. Setting our minds on things above means learning to live on earth in a heavenly manner. Think of the Wright brothers and all their difficulties over years of learning how to sail a self-propelled vehicle upon air. They looked above, committed to rise above the earth. We join in a similar task as we struggle to follow Jesus.

All this is because of the primary Easter conviction that Jesus was dead and is now alive. That changes everything. Jesus is really alive. Jesus shows us what's real. He becomes the lens through which we view life. All existence must now be compared to and measured by Jesus. *(continued on page 8)*

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!



Move your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 am (or when you go to bed on Saturday, March 12).

BIBLE READING IN A YEAR

The Bible reading schedule for the next 8 weeks is available for pick up in the lounge and Narthex (lobby). Due to space limitations, we cannot send it with the "snail mail" version of the newsletter. If you get the newsletter by email, it will be a separate attachment. Remember, it's never too late to start!

LENTEN SERVICES / HOLY WEEK

Lenten services continue on Wednesdays in the Chapel at 11:00 am and the church sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Each week, we are invited to meditate on the parables of Jesus and how they apply to daily living.

- ☩ March 2nd – The Good Samaritan
- ☩ March 9th – The Workers in the Vineyard
- ☩ March 16th – The Prodigal Son

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 20

- 7:45 am — Worship
- 10:15 am — Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 24

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

Good Friday, March 25

- 12:00 pm — Worship
- 7:00 pm — Worship

Easter Sunday, March 27

- 8:00 am — Early Worship
- 10:15 am — Late Worship
- 11:30 am — Communion Following

ELDER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

| | <u>7:45 am</u> | (Wed.) | <u>10:15 am</u> |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2nd | | Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich | |
| 6th | Darold Henninger Mike Winslow | | Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick |
| 9th | | Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick | |
| 13th | Sherrie Haar Bob Haar | | Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy |
| 16th | | Darold Henninger Mike Winslow | |
| 20th | Dick Haar Jeff Ladd | | Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich |
| 27th | Ryan Hugueley Linda Yenrick | | Darold Henninger Mike Winslow |

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPRING BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible study this spring will focus on the book of Acts and will begin on Wednesday, April 13th in the lounge, time TBA. Materials cost \$10, which can be paid the first night. Please RSVP by calling Toni in the office or Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

This scholarship helps members of First St. John attending college for the 2016/2017 school year. Applications are in the church office; they must be completed and returned to the church office by March 30th to be considered.



DARTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Lutheran Men's Dartball tournament will be here at First St. John on Monday, March 7th at 7:00 pm in the gym. Set-up for the tournament is Sunday, March 6th at 1:30 pm. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to the tournament for the Feed Your Neighbor program..

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

2-15-16 Marcus Keith Fisher, born to Bill and Ashlee (Kwiatkowski) Fisher.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

2-4-16 Lyle J. "Jack" Nissen

2-11-16 Lolita "Lee" Schwiefert

2-14-16 Dorothy Kreszowski

Transfers to/from First St. John

None.

"DINNER WITH FRIENDS"

Please note: Due to the Lenten services and other scheduling conflicts, Dinner With Friends, which normally meets in March, has been moved to Wednesday, April 6th. RSVP forms will be in the late March bulletins.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep our records current, please notify us if your address or phone number changes by faxing (419-691-7220), mailing this form to 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH 43605, or emailing office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Mary Batchman, Terry & Claudia Patchen, Penny DeWitt, Walt & Darlene Metzger, Rich & Betty Whitemor, Linda Schlievert, Carol Beamer, Richard & Marilyn Reeder, Barb & Gene Myers.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Bob & Sherrie Haar, Tim & Linda Yenrick, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Richard & Carol Haar, John & Carol Schwegler, David & Diane Habegger, Margie Kusian, Bob & Anne Heninger, Clarence Huss, Charley & Ruth Sheehan, Eleanor Ferguson, Eileen Young, Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group.
In memory of Ethel Rideout by Ron Kelley.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Gene Hagedorn, Marilyn Cashen.

QUILTERS

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Fred & Wanda Rice, Gary & Rita Wesenberg.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Dick & Lola Crouse, Louise & Jim Sommers, Esther Bell and family, John Jenkins, Margene Spring, Karen Frey, John & Diane Goetz, Marilyn Hanthorn, Nancy Bahnsen, Lee Wagner, Bill & Jennifer Bronickowski, Dartball Team #2, Darlene & Larry Paul, Gary & Joanne Henningsen, Carlene Trost, Betty TenEyck Family, Drew & Jayne Beinbreck, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Linda & Fritz Kalmbach, Bob Roe, Mike Sprague, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Bob & Jill Petty, Herman & Gretchen Mies and family, Dave Dreier, Barry & Ann Ramlow, Dianne & Karl Busson, Georgette Gabel, Kurt & Tina Titgemeyer, Doris Titgemeyer, Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer, Dave & Linda Griffith, Jane Pasztor, Brian & Missy Mummert, Keith & Mindy Kennedy, Oregon School Secretaries, Fred & Sharon Kusian, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Donald & Tina Riffner, Dave & Miriam Morrison, Chuck & Jane Neal, Keith, Lisa and Sawyer Mullen, Bob Hecklinger, Jeremy & Debbie Erdmann, Ralph & Ethel Mae Vogtsberger, Darlene

Lorenzen, John & Ann Zelinko, Doyle & Helen Sommer, Dru & Kenny Brown, Bridget, Gene & John Golniek, Ruth Cummerow and Jack Nissen, Dave & Lore Warnke, Glenn Koester, Jean DeWitt, Carol Cedoz-Allen, Tim & Tina Frank, Jim Schimming, William & Julie Moritz, Gregg & Chris Deneker, Jim & Kim Cousino, Melissa & Robert Groweg, Ken & Thelma Brown, Ryan & Erin Fussell, Jeff & Lori Roe, Pat Fondessy, Gene & Janet Schacht, Norman & Phyllis Schuffenecker, Robert & Sue Browder, Mary Jane Finch, Bill & Donna Nelson and family, Frank & Barb Meyers, Dinnis Kersten, Ilean Labuhn Ada Kreger, Gary & Linda Kusian, Mark & Dawn Heilman, Elaine Gladieux, Tom & Jan Eppard, Jean Brown, John & Irene Stocker.

CHOIR FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Mary Ellen Miller, Ron & Joanne Koch.

ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Winnie Wohlgamuth.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Keith & Kim Kwiatkowski, Bev Toneff & Jan Nowak, Paul Kuhlman, Deb Rowland, Jim Harrell, Sandra Stahl, Al & Mary Mortemore, Duane & Mary Hubaker, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Norm Schumaker.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Don & Karen Holmes, Marilyn Daly, Nick & Lisa Daly, Russ & Ellie Fuller, Marilyn Miller, Rosie Dijon, Lillian Lagger.

DEBT RETIREMENT FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Russ & Chris Hunsaker.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of Carl "Dutch" Morrison by Gloria Ross.



ANNUAL CARD PARTY

The 25th annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 12th at noon. For reservations call either the church office (419-691-7222) or Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. The elevator will be available.

If you can donate a 9x13 dessert to serve at least 12 people, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the clipboard in the lounge. We also need donations for our raffle prizes. These should be a little more expensive, with values at least \$25 (gift certificates, gift baskets, flower arrangements, etc.)

We also need door prizes, either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. These prizes are worth about \$5 to \$10, like gift certificates, dish towels, small items from stores like Bath & Body Works, etc. Boxes will be in the lounge and Narthex for depositing these donations. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun day.

“WELCOME TO SPRING” VENDOR SHOW



Everyone is welcome to our spring vendor show that will be in the lounge on Saturday, March 19th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Displays from Tastefully Simple, Thirty One, Scentsy, Jamberry Nails, and more!

The admission “fee” is to bring canned foods for the Feed Your Neighbor program. If you have any questions, please contact Janine Contat by email at j9swancont@hotmail or you can call her at 419-837-0013 (after 6:00 pm, please). Bring your friends and family and have a great time.

MEMORIALS

(continued from page 3)

DINNER WITH FRIENDS (HANNAH CIRCLE)

In memory of Carl “Dutch” Morrison by Ed & Connie Sander, Luann & Tom Schuffenecker, Janice Livingston, Hank & Joanne Schumaker, Ron & Brenda Fussell, Donna Ondrus, Cliff & Madonna Bury, Marge Bollinger.

FIRST ST. JOHN ALTAR GUILD EASTER FLOWER SALE



It’s time to buy flowers that will decorate the church at Easter. The price is \$9.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plant. The last Sunday to order is March 6th when someone from the Altar Guild will be taking orders in the Narthex.

Please complete the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH 43605. Please make checks payable to: *First St. John Altar Guild*. Payment must accompany orders.

The deadline for ordering is Wed., March 9th.

No. of plants @ \$9.00 each: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

Type of plant(s): _____
(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

In Honor of (Living): _____

First St. John Prayer Chain

Crisis Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers in urgent matters such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the chronic list after one month unless a prayer chain contact is notified:

Brant Anderson
Family of Dennis Eischen
Family of Dorothy Kreszowski
Bill Nelson
Family of Lyle "Jack" Nissen
Dick Ross
Family of Lee Schwiefert

Chronic Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles and recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after three months unless a prayer chain contact has been notified:

Mike Barhite
Amanda Combs
Greg Contat
Jackie Curtis
Fred DuPont
Dorothy Felderman
Lynn & Cory Folk
Patty Gable
Jake Haller
Rose Hensley
Jackie Hubaker
Scott Keller
Connie Koch
Robin Kovesdi
Ilean Labuhn
George "Skip" McCullough
Jeanette Miller
Christopher Molnar & Family
Jessica Mueller
Donald Nelson, Sr.
Pam Pirolli
Gene Price
Sheryl Rayl
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Cindy Roecker
Dr. Steve Rowe
Bill Rowland

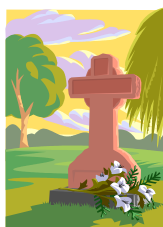
Rick Schumaker
Brenda Seimet
Caleb Shaffer
John Spoerl
Joan Tilton
John Tsaousidis
Pat Vogelsang
Bill Wegman
Julie Woodrum
Olga Zimmerman

**** IMPORTANT **** Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed in the next column-know if individuals can be removed from 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



CEMETERY CLEAN UP NOTICE

Please take time to remove older decorations and grave blankets, especially those from Christmas, since Easter is at the end of the month. Thanks in advance for your help.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our next gathering is Saturday, March 5th at 8:00 am at Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave. Come for breakfast, a short devotion and fellowship. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.

ZUMBA CLASSES

We will not meet on Tuesday, March 8th because of the Dayschool Open House that evening. Also, no classes on Maundy
5 Thursday, which is March 24th.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Random Acts of Kindness (RAK)

What is an RAK? It's a single act of kindness that can cause a ripple effect that spreads like crazy! The benefits of charity and compassion are powerful and immediate.

It doesn't have to mean giving a large sum of money or expending a lot of effort. It could be as simple as holding the door for someone laden with bags or giving up a place in line to someone who appears in a rush. It could even mean paying for coffee for the person behind you in line at a coffee house.

Here are some ideas for kids to participate in RAK as well. Let's spread God's LOVE everywhere through Random Acts of Kindness!



ACTS OF KINDNESS

- Gather outgrown clothing & donate to a homeless shelter
- Draw a picture & thank you card to send to soldiers
- Donate books with a special message in the cover to your local children's hospital
- Organize a community/school bake sale
- Donate used toys to a local shelter
- Decorate a cardboard box & start a recycling program at home or school
- Deliver canned foods to a food bank

Take a photo & share with us! #iheartkids
www.iHeartKids.com

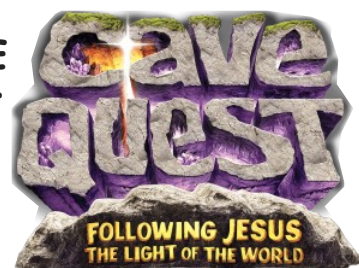
The Souper Bowl of Caring finishes at the end of February. Our first week's total was 166. Last year we collected 638 canned goods to be donated to Lutheran Social Services. Can we DARE to collect 700 this year?

The JAM children had a great time making Valentines that were distributed to the congregation, as well as having a Valentine's Day party. They played two Minute to Win It games and bingo, and of course, had snacks!

Lena Miller, our youth Choir Director, resigned with her last day being February 5th. We are working on finding a replacement for her.

Since Pastor has to leave a few minutes early for Lenten Services, a few folks have pitched in to help the 8th grade Catechism class learn about a few select groups in our church. Bob Haar will speak about the men's breakfast fellowship, Dartball, and his new job at Lutheran Home of Toledo as the new archivist, and also about being an elder. Laurie Witt will speak about the Praise and Worship Team; Karen Holmes will speak about the Food Pantry; Cheri Johnson will speak about the Bell Choir; and Keith Mullen will speak about Church Council.


SAVE THE DATE
for **CAVE QUEST**
VBS!



Gear up for an adventure!

Prepared to be Grounded in the rock-solid foundation of God's love, a love that takes us through life's dark times.

Vacation Bible School will be Monday,
June 20 - Thursday, June 23
from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



LENTEN ENVELOPES

Special Lenten envelopes in the pews can be used for donating to local benevolences (charitable organizations in the Toledo area). If you wish your donation to be for general offering for First St. John and you don't have assigned offering envelopes, you can use the generic white envelopes in the pews.

If you would like to receive a box of offering envelopes, please call Toni in the church office.

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

National Lutheran Schools Week is celebrated across the country by over 1,400 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America congregations which operate elementary and secondary schools and early childhood education programs. These schools provide education and nurture over 150,000 children who will be a part of the next generation of faithful Christians in America. We want our future leaders to be raised knowing their Lord and Savior and to be caring individuals, concerned about the welfare of others.

Jesus has a special concern for children. He encouraged people bringing their children to Him with the words, "It is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10:14) The children gifted with faith become examples to us all.

We also want to remember the 18,000 dedicated Christian teachers, directors, and other staff members who choose to work in our schools. These are fellow Christians who reach out with the Gospel to the hearts and souls of the children placed in our care.

Our DaySchool children will sing during the 10:15 am service on March 6th. There will be a reception after the service, which everyone is invited to attend. This is a good opportunity for the church families to meet and talk with the school families. Who knows, you may find you know some of these families and you can invite them to church! We often think of returning to places where we have connections.

First St. John DaySchool will host an Open House on Tuesday, March 8th from 6-8 pm. This is an opportunity for prospective families to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. At this time, enrollment is open to everyone. First St. John members pay no registration fee.

Support the Ministry of First St. John DaySchool

The children and staff appreciate your support of our work here at the school. Remember, there are many ways to support us. Financial donations are wonderful, but there are lots of other opportunities!

Prayerfully consider how you can help with the second LEAF Festival coming September 17th. 7

Perhaps you know businesses or individuals who would consider charitable donations. We want to make baskets to auction, as well as big ticket items like TV's or iPads, or even a vacation at a resort!

Perhaps you are a member of Thrivent and receive Choice Dollars. If so, please consider directing those dollars to the school. Or, if you shop at Kroger, direct those dollars to the school. Saving Box Tops or Campbell's labels also generates money. We want to provide our children with technology so they are prepared to enter the public school classrooms.

Donation of your time is often more valuable than money! We appreciate the efforts of Bob, George, Bill, and Susie who donated time to paint our upstairs classroom, and also the efforts of Jane who made the drapes! Come check it out now or during Open House.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of First St. John's DaySchool.

— Carol Felderman, Administrator

SUMMER AND FALL REGISTRATION FOR FSJ DAYSCHOOL



Summer and Fall registration for the Dayschool has begun. Currently, members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay 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. Attend the Open House on March 8th or call the Dayschool at 419-691-6480 for more information and to schedule a tour.

DAYSCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The school's Open House will be Tuesday, March 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. If you or a friend has children who will be at least three years of age by August 1st, 2016 and is interested in looking at the school and meeting the teachers, please come.



**PERSONAL NEEDS
PANTRY
MARCH MINISTRY
OUTREACH**

Our March Ministry Outreach is the Personal Needs Pantry. We are accepting both financial and product donations to help support the pantry, which has grown a great deal in two years.

Since opening, we have served 461 families (749 adults, 542 children). We have 15 volunteers that serve this ministry. The list below shows the number of products distributed:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Dish Soap | 482 |
| Paper Towels | 494 |
| Toilet Paper (rolls) | 3,911 |
| Tissues | 530 |
| Deodorant, Women | 562 |
| Deodorant, Men | 353 |
| Laundry Soap (40 Loads) | 473 |
| Fabric Softener Sheets | 454 |
| Body Lotion | 480 |
| Body Soap (bars) | 2,425 |
| Tooth Brush (Adult) | 887 |
| Toothbrush (Child) | 229 |
| Sanitary Pads | 344 |
| Tampons | 186 |
| Toothpaste (Adult) | 524 |
| Toothpaste (Child) | 97 |
| Shampoo (Child) | 112 |
| Shampoo (Adult) | 511 |
| Band Aids | 428 |
| Men/Women's Razors | 424 |

This ministry serves at least 8 families per week. The operating cost is \$600 per month, so the need for both monetary and product donations is great. The products we need 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 & toothpaste.

Please deposit these items in the specified bin in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or the green bin in the lounge. Prayerfully consider supporting this ministry not only during March, but all year long. We greatly appreciate the support this church has given us during these past two years. Thank you.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE
(continued from page 1)

All of life is relative to Jesus. He is the prime meridian, connecting all poles of life, and all life is oriented around him. We used to write our calendars as BC – Before Christ – and AD —*anno Domini* —"In the year of our Lord."

When Jesus made this bold claim, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," he was connecting us to the living God--for he is God the Son. Our existence is not filled with some run-of-the-mill expectation--but by resurrection power. We are called to life. The abundant life is measured not by the material wealth we accumulate--but rather by how much of God's truth and purpose we allow to take root in our lives.

Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we also can be freed from the power of sin and evil. Sin and evil do not have to control our lives. Christ is sovereign over all circumstances and situations. Because of the resurrection power of God, our lives no longer have to be engulfed by fear--but they can be energized by faith. The resurrection power of Jesus Christ fills this day--this very moment--with importance and opportunity. My life and yours are not in vain. They have an eternal quality and legacy. Our lives are not like a mist that can evaporate in a moment --because we are connected to the Eternal purposes of God. Nothing is able to separate us from God's purpose in life. Jesus did not say, "I am despair and death," but "I am the Resurrection and the Life" for those who believe in Him.

Resurrection Sunday isn't just about Jesus' coming back to life a long time ago in a country near the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean. If it is, then Jesus' resurrection is only an interesting dot in history. Easter Sunday is about our coming to life in him. Jesus was dead and is alive in us. No one saw Jesus' resurrection, but people see us. We've risen from the dead with him. We're the place the risen Jesus is heard and seen. So, one way to celebrate Easter is to concentrate upon God's grace in Jesus' death and resurrection. That's certainly enough to direct our praise to God and to redirect the rest of our lives. But another way, taking our cue from Paul, is to let God concentrate upon your dying and rising with Christ.

So, please don't forget to include in your plans for this month the opportunity to enter into the mystery of God's gift of salvation and new life in the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. As we gather to retell the great Paschal story, the Holy Spirit imparts the gifts of faith and new life. Come, join us for worship at First St. John Lutheran.