
◈ First St. John Journal ◈

Volume 29, Issue 11

November, 2016

Many years ago, Mrs. Maria Rubio of Lake Arthur, New Mexico, was rolling out tortillas for lunch when she saw something that took her breath away. Looking back at her from a flat tortilla was the face of Jesus! The skillet had burned a perfect representation of a slender, bearded face onto the surface of the bread. Now I am not certain how Mrs. Rubio knew this was Jesus, but she convinced a reluctant priest to bless the piece of bread, and then she built a shrine around it. Mrs. Rubio quit her job so she could devote all her time to tending the tortilla shrine. Friends, neighbors, even strangers stopped by to look at it or to pray in front of it. Mrs. Rubio, who also prays nightly in front of the tortilla, has said, "I do not know why this has happened to me, but God has come into my life through this tortilla."

Faye Neff tells about a little girl named Wendy who always was fascinated by a certain feature in her church. Behind the pulpit was a wooden door. It was closed at all times. Wendy imagined Jesus lived in the room behind the door, and that the pastor would go back there to talk to Jesus occasionally. That's how he knew what to preach about on Sunday. It felt good having Jesus so nearby. Wendy never would have knocked on the door or opened it, but she liked knowing Jesus was there in case an emergency came up. One day, Wendy noticed the door was open. She held her breath as she reached for the door and stepped into the secret room. But all she saw were old choir robes and church decorations. Jesus wasn't there. In her childish mind, Wendy wondered if Jesus had left her church for some reason. If Jesus wasn't in her church, then where was He?

Martha Wade is a Bible translator who has chosen to live in one of the most primitive places on earth, a jungle village in Papua, New Guinea, in order to translate the Word of God for people who might have no other way to know it. Bible translation is a painstaking job that can take years to complete. When she had finished translating a portion of the

Gospels, Martha showed it to a village elder. After reading it, he remarked, "Now I know God speaks our language."

Mrs. Rubio saw the face of Jesus on a tortilla. A little girl looks for Jesus in a room in her church. A village elder rejoices that God speaks his language. All of us yearn to see God. We yearn to know God is with us, God knows us, understands us, and helps us.

Of all the interesting and, at times, strange places people look to find God, the two certain places I believe God is always present is in the Word and Sacraments. These are the only places that share the powerful truth of God's eternal love for us in Jesus Christ and connect our lives with the wonderful promises of the Lord's presence in our lives.

If you are looking for God or feel God is looking for you, then you will want to be in the one place where the Word and the Sacraments are available each week—among the people of God at worship in the church. Please, don't miss out on the opportunity God provides. See you in church this week.

— *Pastor Rayl*

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY— YOUR INPUT IN THE CALL PROCESS

The Call Committee would like your input on what we need in a new pastor, where we stand as a congregation, and our future ministry goals, needs, and aspirations. To that end, a congregational survey is available on the welcome desk in the Narthex and also is in this newsletter.

Please fill out the survey as much as possible and turn it in to the collection box on the welcome desk or mail it to the church. Feel free to write on the back of the pages or attach additional pages. The last day to turn in surveys is Sunday, November 27th. Thank you.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the Day School's annual Thanksgiving Feasts. If you have time and would like to help prepare and serve, volunteers are needed—even if it's only for an hour. Help is needed Monday to Thursday, Nov. 14-17 between 9 am and 3 pm. Please call the school office at 419-691-6480 if you can help. The children help prepare the food. Our menu includes "stone soup," pumpkin bread, vegetables in cornucopias, and a "blessing mix." This is a great opportunity to mingle with school families and let them see the friendly, family atmosphere of First St. John.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual meeting is Sunday, December 11th following both services when we will elect council members and vote on the 2017 budget.

Member Address Change

Adam & Julie Ladd
3910 Sheffield Ct.
Toledo, OH 43623



CHICKEN AND HAM DINNER

Don't Forget the Craft and Bake Sale!

**Saturday, November 5th
4:00 pm —7:00 pm**

Take Out Available!
Tickets available at the door!

Ticket Prices are \$10.00 for Adults, \$4.00 for children 3 - 12, and free for children 2 and under. Don't forget to stop by the lounge during the dinner. You can view and buy beautiful craft items. Bake sale items also will be available.

SEE'S CANDY FUNDRAISER FOR "RAISE THE ROOF"

This sale begins during the Chicken & Ham Dinner on Saturday, November 5th when See's candy will be available for tasting, purchasing, and ordering. We will offer peanut brittle, assorted chocolates, nuts & chews chocolates, milk & dark chocolates, butterscotch "lollipops," and See's Awesome Peanut Brittle bars—all handmade in the USA with no preservatives.

Prices range from \$1.00 to \$19.30. You can order through Mon., Dec. 5th. Candy will arrive gift-wrapped in time for the holidays. For more info, you can go on-line to www.sees.com All proceeds go to the "Raise the Roof" campaign. Thanks!

WOMEN'S MEETING

The WELCA General Meeting is Sat., November 19th at 10:00 am in the lounge. Our program will be about CPR. We'll also have breakfast and election of officers. ALL ladies are welcome to attend.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DEADLINE



Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which gives Christmas gifts to needy children throughout the world. Pamphlets with suggested gifts are available with empty shoeboxes (unwrapped) in the lounge, the Narthex, and in the JAM Sunday School room in the basement of the church. Once you fill a box (or boxes), please return it to the church office with your \$7 donation for shipping **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 13th**. Shoeboxes will be delivered the next day, and **we cannot accept them after that date.** Thank you for your generosity.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
11/6	Tom Gaskins	Sherrie Haar
	Terry Ruedy	Bob Haar
11/13	Jeff Smith	Dick Haar
	Tom Eppard	Jeff Ladd
11/20	Darold Henninger	Ryan Hugueley
	Mike Winslow	Linda Yenrick
11/27	Sherrie Haar	Tom Gaskins
	Bob Haar	Terry Ruedy

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

We're looking for new council members for the upcoming year. Positions available include Finance Committee, Elders, and Day School Board. Please contact Bill Nelson at 419-836-4165, Lisa Anderson at 419-392-3712, or the church office at 419-691-7222 if you are interested or have questions.

TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS!



Daylight savings time ends November 6th. Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM

We will not have catechism or Sunday School on Sunday, November 27th. We will resume catechism and Sunday School on Sunday, December 4th.

NOTE: Eighth grade catechism is scheduled to meet on Sunday, November 6th and 20th and Sunday, December 4th and 18th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm for each class. Pastor Rayl will notify class members of any changes in this schedule.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our adult class meets in the lounge at 9:00 am each Sunday. Remember, Bible learning is not meant to end when you finish confirmation classes! We look forward to seeing you this Sunday.



DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Join us on Wed., Nov. 16th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. The menu includes lasagna, salad, garlic bread, drinks, and dessert. So we know how many to plan for, please RSVP using the slip below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Or, you can call the office at 419-691-7222.

Yes! I/we will attend Dinner With Friends on November 16th.

Names: _____

EYEGLASSES COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect used eyeglasses. If you have old eyeglasses lying around, please consider bringing them to the church office or the lounge. We will donate them to organizations that help those in need. Thank you.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next meeting is Saturday, November 5th at Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Births

10-14-16 Twins *Adelaide Pearl* and *Winston Jacob* born to Jason and Alissa (Ladd) Vieira.

Baptisms

10-23-16 *Fintan Theodore Hagedorn*, born July 13, 2016 to Matthew and Erin (Laurell) Hagedorn. Sponsors are Andrew and Alison Laurell.

Marriages None.

Deaths

10-8-16 Tina Curtis
10-12-16 Robert Emch

Transfers to/from First St. John: None.

DAYSCHOOL NEWS

"You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say." -- Martin Luther

These words bring to mind the things Jesus said and did not say. In the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He spoke in the synagogue, saying, *"The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day."* People were amazed. As Jesus continued and said that God sometimes uses people we may look down on, thoughts changed. In quick order, the people were ready to push Him over the edge of a cliff.

At the end of His ministry, when called before Caiaphas, King Herod, and Pilate, Jesus did not speak. He let His life and actions speak for Him. He could have defended Himself, challenged the accusations, and perhaps avoided the cross. But it would not have accomplished God's plan, which was also His plan. Previously, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed to His Father, *"Yet not as I will, but as you will."*

Sometimes we run our mouths when we should remain quiet. There was a lot of controversy this past year about the school, and things have been said—some true, some not. I have found there is no point in arguing the truth; we will let our actions stand. That is the path Jesus chose. First St. John Day School will celebrate 40 years of providing Christian education to young children. We seek God's will in what we do and move forward.

But sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we should speak up but don't. We are hesitant to get involved, thinking it really does not concern us. With a major election looming it is very important for Christians to pray and vote. Christian values are being pushed out. We need to search the will of God revealed in His Word and live in a manner pleasing to Him. This is very difficult in today's world as it seems society has taken God out of everything. As for me, I cannot imagine how people find hope in a world without God.

As Thanksgiving draws near I thank God even more for all He has given me. Salvation is the ultimate gift, but I have so many earthly blessings to thank Him for as well.

(Continued on page 6)

WE REMEMBER...

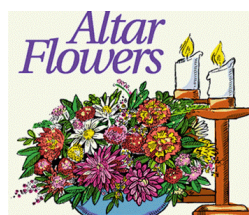
On All Saints Sunday, November 6th, we remember the saints of First St. John who entered the Church Triumphant during the past year:



Doris M. Danekind	11/10/1923 - 11/18/2015
Ethel B. Rideout	11/21/1916 - 12/03/2015
Virginia M. Brandeberry	7/21/1921 - 12/25/2015
Virginia R. Tank	5/28/1925 - 1/04/2016
Carl E. "Dutch" Morrison	12/30/1936 - 1/11/2016
Lolita "Lee" Schwiefert	5/15/1943 - 2/11/2016
Dorothy J. Kreszowski	6/11/1927 - 2/14/2016
Mildred J. Hancock	12/02/1920 - 3/18/2016
Laurie Madrazo	6/30/1955 - 4/06/2016
Chester H. Norden	11/25/1928 - 4/21/2016
Elinor L. Ehram	2/23/1918 - 5/03/2016
Bertram Banks Jr.	4/05/1930 - 5/16/2016
Hilda L. Saelzler	6/18/1919 - 5/23/2016
Tina M. Curtis	11/20/1962 - 10/08/2016
Robert G. Emch	4/23/1924 - 10/12/2016

*And we also remember
these friends & family members:*

Dick & Joan Bailey, Fred & Helen Bailey,
Phyllis Emch, Clarence & Iva Grant,
Dianne Harris, Lyle "Jack" Nissen, Barbara Sabin,
Andrea Schumaker, Jean Skorupa, Tim Smith,
and Sharon Youster



2017 ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS

You can begin signing up for flowers to be placed on the church altar for January through October of 2017. The sign up sheets are in the red book located on the shelf under the main bulletin board in the Narthex, to the left of the main doors when you come into the church.



First St. John Prayer Chain
(as of 10/26/16)



Crisis Prayer List: *For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after one month unless we're contacted about special circumstances:*

Family of Tina Curtis
Marion Fouty
Family of Luke Partin
Julie Woodrum
Ruth Zasada

On-Going Concerns: *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 we're contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

Nancy Aysh
Mike Barhite
Pastor Blohm
Norma Boger
Jeannette Carlo
Greg Contat
Jackie Curtis
Teresa Ellis
Dorothy Felderman
Patty Gable
Elaine Gardner
Dawn Gingrich
Michael Goolsby
Rose Hensley
Jackie Hubaker
Ed & Susan Klawitter
Connie Koch
Robin Kovesdi
Ilean Labuhn
Kate Lajti
Jeanette Miller
Monica Moszkowicz
Beth Myers
Chuck Neal
Donald Nelson, Sr.
Pam Pirolli
Paul Rang

Sheryl Rayl
Olivia & Delaney Reamsnyder
Michael Rheinbolt & family
Dr. Steve Rowe
Phyllis Schuffenecker
Norm Schumaker
Lois Seymour
John Spoerl
John Tsousidis
Steve Uzi
Lee Wagner
Olivia Zeisler
Olga Zimmerman

Please check the list and notify any prayer chain contact if a name can be removed.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Carol Abbey 351-9795 or cabbey@jcrinc.com

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

FAMILY CHRISTMAS
PARTY



Our Family Christmas party is Sunday, December 4th at 6:00 pm in the gym. The evening's entertainment is by our own JAM kids. Don't miss it because this year, Santa Claus is coming! Takacs Catering will prepare the dinner for us. (Free will offering to help defer the cost of food.) So we can know how many dinners to order, please fill out the RSVP slip below and return it to the office, place it in the offering plate, or call the office. Hope to see you there!

I/we will attend the Christmas Party on Dec. 4th

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____



HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS AND BOOTS COLLECTION

We will collect winter wear for local children throughout the entire month of November. We need hat and mitten sizes 0 through adult. We also are collecting toddler and preschool size socks and boots. Place your donations in the specially marked boxes in the Narthex and/or the lounge. Thank you.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

(continued from page 4)

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the LEAF Festival these past few months! It was a lot of work for all of us, but I enjoyed seeing the camaraderie and generosity of the volunteers. Especially, I want to thank Mr. Wagner for donating the equipment and workmen to raze the parsonage so quickly after the Festival. The children seem to think the playground can go up just as quickly, and they are making plans for what they think should be on their playground!

— Carol Felderman

DAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

With holiday cooking you will have many opportunities to collect **Big G Box Tops**. We received over \$500 last year! Keep clipping and sending those to the school.

We continue collecting **Campbell's Labels for Education**. They have changed their program and will only accept the UPC's with the "Labels for Education" logo. We have been using these to "purchase" items for the classrooms since Campbell's does not send money, but rather so many labels earns us merchandise from their catalog. Keep saving and drop both in the collection box on the table in the lounge!

Attention Kroger shoppers! Did you remember to re-enroll to have your community rewards directed to First St. John Day School? Lots of holiday shopping will generate extra funds for us, and we appreciate it!

2016 POINSETTIA SALE

Sponsored by the Altar Guild

Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship on Christmas Eve. Place this form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to: **First St. John Altar Guild**

**Deadline for placing orders is
Friday, December 9, 2016.**

No. of plants @ \$9.00 each _____

Color (circle one): Red White

Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

In Honor of (Living):

