
First St. John Journal

Volume 31, Issue 1

January, 2018

For my January newsletter article, I want to use the story I concluded with for the Christmas Eve sermon. I feel it can serve as an inspiration for the purpose and quality of the ministry of First St. John Lutheran in the new year. The story follows.

There is an ancient Christmas legend that tells of how God called the angels of heaven together one day for a special choir rehearsal. God told the angelic choir that he wanted them to learn a special song for a very special occasion. The angels got very excited, and they rehearsed the song for weeks. God was quite demanding of his choir, but the angels assumed it was for a very good reason.

Finally, God felt they were ready to sing the song, but before they did he had one important thing to tell them—they would only perform the song once. Some of the angels complained. They didn't understand. The song was so beautiful and they sang it so well. Why sing it only once? God told his angels to trust him and later they would understand.

One night, God called the angels together and said, "It's time." He led them to a field just outside Bethlehem and the angels sang their song. And boy, did they sing it! "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward all." As the angels sang, they began to understand the significance of the song and why they were singing it. The song was announcing the birth of the Savior of the world!

When the angels finished singing, God led them back to heaven and reminded them they would not sing that song again as an angelic choir. They could hum the song occasionally as individuals, but they would never perform it again. One angel was overcome with curiosity and courageously asked God why they could not sing that majestic anthem again. They did it so well. It felt so right. Why couldn't they sing that great song anymore?

"Because," God explained, "my Son has been born and now earth must do the singing."

Will you sing? As we move into the new year there are many challenges and opportunities God has set before us at First St. John. Many will not be easy, but together these will set a foundation, whether solid or weak, for the future life and ministry of First St. John. The question before us as individuals and as a congregation is: "Will we join the chorus with our own voices of faith and response?"

God is waiting. Will you sing?

— Pastor Rayl

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY JANUARY 21, 2018

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

On Sunday, January 21st 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 family (you and your spouse, you and your extended family, etc.) or even those you consider as family—as many times as you want. What a special way to begin 2018!

NEW YEAR'S DEVOTION By Max Lucado



*Your word is like a lamp for
my feet and a light for my path.*

— Psalm 119:105

God isn't going to let you see the distant scene. So you might as well quit looking for it. He promises a lamp unto our feet, not a crystal ball into the future. We do not need to know what will happen tomorrow. We only need to know He leads us and we will find grace to help us when we need it.

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None.

Baptisms

12-3-17 *Brady James Miller*, born September 20, 2017 to Nick and Kristine (Hecklinger) Miller. Sponsors are Alex and Holly Reif.

Marriages

None

Deaths

None

Transfers to First St. John

Marilyn Ulrich from Holy Trinity Lutheran in Toledo, Ohio.

Transfers from First St. John

None

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



Our next men's breakfast fellowship will be on Saturday, January 6th at 8:00 am at the Bob Evans on Navarre Ave. If you have any questions or need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. See you there!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Pastor Rayl will conduct a New Member class in January. If you are interested in becoming a member of First St. John or just learning more about our faith and practices, please send your RSVP to Pastor Rayl either by email (pastor1@firststjohn.com), text (567-395-0143), or by contacting the church office at 419-691-7222 or office@firststjohn.com

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All newly elected and incumbent members of Church Council, Day School Board, WELCA, and Altar Guild should plan to attend church on Sunday, January 14th. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2018 duties.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering boxes are in the lounge, laid out alphabetically. Envelopes are prepared for confirmed members and friends (upon request). If a husband and wife share envelopes, only the husband's name will appear on the envelope box. If you still need a box, please call Toni in the church office at 419-691-7222. Please pick up your envelopes soon; they will be stored away at the end of the month.

MARCO'S FUNDRAISER



Our next pizza fundraiser is Wed., January 24th at the Starr Ave. location. NOTE: *Both Woodville Rd. sites (Northwood and East Toledo) and Main St. in East Toledo, among others, are also honoring this fundraiser.* When you mention you are calling for First St. John Day School that day, the school receives 15% of all sales generated. NOTE: If you order on-line (www.marcos.com), the school receives an additional 5%. Flyers with coupons will be available soon. Thanks for your support!



ZUMBA!

Zumba classes begin again on Tuesday, January 9th in our gym at 6:15 pm. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For questions or more information, please 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

7:45 am

7th Ryan Hugueley
Jeff Smith

10:15 am

Kevin Ruedy
Mike Winslow

14th Tom Gaskins
Terry Ruedy

Sherrie Haar
Bob Haar

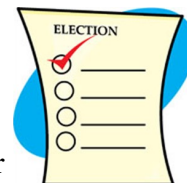
21st Joanne Henningsen
Jeff Ladd

Dick Haar
Bob Hecklinger

28th Kevin Ruedy
Mike Winslow

Ryan Hugueley
Jeff Smith

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 elected council members:

Elders: Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar, Ryan Hugueley, Jeff Smith

Finance Committee: Lisa Anderson, Eric Johnson

Property Management: Andy Hodges

Sunday School Board of Education: Susan Tilton

Dayschool Board of Education: Karen Holmes, Lisa Mullen

COUNCIL DINNER MEETING

A dinner and brief meeting will be held at Cousino's Steakhouse on Woodville Rd. on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm for all current, incoming, and outgoing council members and their spouses. The church will pay for your non-alcoholic beverages and desserts.

Please RSVP to the church office at 419-691-7222 by Monday, January 15th or email the church at office@firststjohn.com

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY



We will begin our studies again on Thursday, January 11th at 11:00 am. Remember to bring a sack lunch. Everyone is welcome!

REMINDER FROM THE ALTAR GUILD



Don't forget to honor your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board and sign up for the Sunday you want. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment. You can place it in the small box on the wall next to the bulletin board, drop it in the offering place, or mail it to the church office. Thanks!

ALTAR GUILD NEWS



Our officers and members for 2018 are listed below:

Officers:

Beth Hugueley
Emily Kruse
Joanne Crandall
Jane Schuetz
Penny DeWitt
Cathy Caldwell

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Supply Chairman
Flower Chairman

Members: Kris Abel, Peggy Burke, Dianne Burnette, Karen Frey, Carol Haar, Deb Hagedorn, Sandy Hecklinger, Beth Hodges, DeDe Ruedy, Carol Schwegler, Debbie Smith, Sandy Stahl

Alternates: Brenda Fussell, Claudia Patchen, Joyce Yard

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

ATTENTION 2017 & 2018 COUNCIL, DAYSCHOOL BOARD, WELCA, & ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS

If you've finished your term, please turn in your church keys and access cards. If you are new and need an access card and/or keys, see Toni in the church office. **Note:** 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. Thank you.

MEMORIALS

ROOF FUND

In memory of Willie Moritz by Nancy Hauter, Ada Kreger.

In memory of Etta & Roy Rideout by Georgia Huebner.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

January 22nd



PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY DONATIONS

Focus item for January is dish soap.

Ongoing donations of other items are welcome: disposable razors, laundry soap, fabric softener, toothbrushes & toothpaste, toilet paper, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, band aids, etc.

The bins for collecting items are under the main board in the Narthex (the left pull-out bin) or the bright green bin in the lounge. Monetary donations are welcome. Thank you for your help.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY— THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone for their generous donations of products for the Personal Needs Pantry in 2017. My monthly cost for purchasing needed items declined throughout the year since you helped keep it well stocked! I received so many paper towels in February that I didn't have to buy any until August! The need was great in 2017 as we averaged eight families per week. The volunteers tell me how thankful the clients are in receiving these much needed products.

I would like to thank the volunteers who give their time to show our community the love of Christ through this ministry: Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Joanne Crandall, Lee Frazier, Nancy Gallaher, Cindy Johnson, Emily Kruse, Dia Mermer, Janet Morrison, Doris Rutledge, Dianne Schumaker, Luann Spoerl, Fred Hahn (St. Mark Lutheran Church), and Joy Hecklinger (Bethlehem Lutheran Church). If you want to know more about this ministry feel free to talk to them or myself about it. Thank you, again!

-- Karen Holmes

WELCA NEWS

The WELCA board meeting will be Monday, January 8th at 6:30 pm at the Oregon Inn on Bay Shore Rd.

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 9th at 11:00 am.

Miriam Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 3rd at 9:30 am.

Rebecca Circle is dismissed until March.

Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, January 15th at 7:00 pm. Since this is our holiday party, please bring a snack to share, and don't forget the gift exchange.

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER

The January–March Portals of Prayer can be found 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 would like one.

SPORTS PHOTOS NEEDED

Attention, sports fans! Bob Haar is putting the final touches on the First St. John Sports Almanac, entitled: "75 Years of First St. John Lutheran Athletic Achievement." He needs photos of the girl's and women's softball teams of the early 70's and the men's softball teams that played in Loop Park and Railway Park in Walbridge in the 70's and 80's.

Please check your old photo albums for these and other pictures we could include. Please send them to Bob Haar or to the church office to Bob Haar's attention. Thanks!

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This scholarship is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and will attend college for the 2018/2019 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.



CHILI COOK-OFF FOR OUR "RAISE THE ROOF" CAMPAIGN

A chili meal and cook-off will be held on Saturday, January 20th from 4:00-6:30 pm in the gym. The menu will include homemade varieties of chili, macaroni and cheese, hotdogs, salad, bread and crackers, applesauce, cookies, and beverages.

We are asking for donations of homemade chili in crock pots to help make this event a success. Vote for your favorite chili! Prizes will be awarded for first and second place winners.

Ticket prices are \$7.00 for ages 13 and up, \$3.00 for children 4 to 12, and free for children ages 3 and under. You can buy tickets in advance or at the door.

If you can help in any way with set up, assisting guests, clean up, giving a pot of chili, or if you have questions, please contact coordinator Carol Haar at 419-540-2163.



MOVIE NIGHT AT FIRST ST. JOHN

We will show *War Room* in the gym on Sunday, January 14th at 5:00 pm (the movie will begin at 5:00 pm sharp). Everyone is welcome (young people and adults alike). Pizza, popcorn and beverages will be available.

A freewill offering will help cover the cost of the pizza. Bring your own stadium chair if you'd like. Although the title may make you think this movie is about war, it's actually about the power of prayer, especially in saving marriages and families.

We also are having movie night at the same time in the JAM room in the basement of the church for children. Please fill out the slip below and put it in the offering plate if you plan to attend.

Yes, I/we will attend the movie on Sunday, January 14th.

Names: _____

Yes, my children will attend the children's movie.

Names: _____

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT BILL NELSON

Property Management and I reviewed in greater detail the question regarding demolition of the current Educational Building and replacing it with a single story building.

Current square footage is 21,800 (3 stories), with an estimated replacement cost at \$215 / sq. ft. (information provided by Munger & Munger) = \$4,687,000. Add the estimate for demolition of the current building of \$350,000, and that would make the total cost \$5,037,000.

Miscellaneous Items:

- ◆ Demolition cost would increase if hazardous material is present in the current building.
- ◆ Outside building construction would not be brick, but some other material construction.
- ◆ Some type of construction would be required where the current crossover (lounge) is attached to the building.

With current estimated bids to repair the roof at only 8% of a total building reconstruction, Property Management and I are in agreement that a total building replacement would not be practical. With assistance from the architect, Property Management once again is reviewing alternate materials and designs to help reduce the price. With alternative materials there may be some acoustics and/or aesthetics deterioration.

We have overlooked this issue for over 15 years, and we are at a crossroads where "doing nothing" is not an option. Thank you for your continued support.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Our next GALA Festival with silent auction is October 13, 2018! Our theme is "Eat, Drink & Be Giving." We will keep some of the favorite events from the past, but we also look forward to trying some new ideas.



This year, the event will take place at Saint Michael Center in Oregon, Ohio. The event is a major fundraiser for the school, so we need your participation in making it a success.

FIRST ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN (as of 12/27/17)

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:

**Family of Rose Ruch
Ralph Vogtsberger
Family of Julie Woodrum**

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:

**Maureen Albright
Karyl & Lee Antoine
Karen Bless
Sandy Bohland
Jeannette Carlo
Carol Cheatham
Greg Contat
Jackie Curtis
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
Dorothy Felderman
Patty Gable
Kathleen Gingrich
Donna Haar
Julius Haller
Heather (no last name given)
Marcia Henninger
Rose Hensley
Tom Iserman
Mark Kieswetter
Ilean Labuhn
Kate Lajti
Scott Langlois
Janice Logsdon
Jeanette Miller
James Moore
Mary Bell Moore
Bill Morse
Beth Myers
Chuck Neal
Pam Pirolli
Hunter Potter
Gene Price
Mike Ray
Sheryl Rayl
Michael Rheinbolt & Family
Dr. Steve Rowe
Bob Ruch
Tom Sabin
Phyllis Schuffenecker
Jack & Lauren Seibert
Connie Singlar**

**Tom Smith
Joan Tilton
Tom (no last name given)
Steve Uzl
Julie Woodrum
Darlene Worz
John & Grace Yard
Dayle Young Family
Mary Zimmer
Olga Zimmerman**

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



FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP

Our first meeting of the new year will be Tuesday, January 16th at 7:00 pm. Please note the date change. Focus on **PRACTICE DISCIPLESHIP** Discipleship is a group of people who gather to discover ideas and discuss events to help facilitate growth in our church and Day School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

TIME FOR QUILTING!

The Quilting Group meets each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge beginning Monday, January 8th and running through Monday, March 26th. 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.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

*“Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth!”
Psalm 46:10*

Today’s society always seems to be in a hurry. We want to get in and out of places fast, and that is often true of church as well. We check the bulletin to see how long it is, then time the pastor. We have to get going to breakfast, a ball game, shopping, or whatever. We can’t sit through church without our water, coffee, or phone....

Electronic devices were supposed to bring us together; instead I believe we have moved away from personal contact. I see groups of people, but they are all looking at their devices and not talking with one another. Have you ever noticed a couple at a restaurant and both are on their phone? I often wonder if they are talking with each other.

I read a book titled The First Phone Call from Heaven by Mitch Albom. What would be our reaction if we received a phone call (or text) from a loved one in heaven? Would that make us stop and reevaluate our relationship with our God? Is God the Father real in our life? Do we fear, love, and trust God above anything else? I don’t see that in the lives of many people I know. In fact, I myself often hurry around trying to do everything I feel others expect, but I know that is not what is best for me.

I try to set aside time at the beginning and end of my day to spend with God. I think God communicates with us every day, but we have to quietly listen to His Word. That may come from the written Word or through the words of a friend, or even a stranger. I believe there are angels among us who help us when we are in need. Often I have been in places where someone has told me they felt God brought me into their life for a reason. And vice versa—I believe others have crossed my path and helped me through some tough times. God knows who we need when we need them. I pray all of you experience angels in your life.

I especially appreciate all the angels who have helped First St. John Day School this past year. Without your prayers and help, I am not sure we would be where we are today. Thank you, and God bless you this New Year!

— Carol Felderman

Summer and Fall Registration

Fall registration for the Day School’s 2018-2019 school year will begin in mid-January. Currently, members of First St. John Lutheran have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay no registration fee. Classes are available for three and four-year-old children, with a variety of options. We are expanding our program by adding an extra half hour; classes will run from 9 am to noon. Extended Care is available for all children. The summer program will operate from May 30th – August 3rd, and the fall program will begin on August 15th. Attend the Open House on January 23rd or call the Day School at 419-691-6480 for more information and/or to schedule a tour of the school.

Open House

First St. John Day School will host an Open House on Tuesday, January 23rd from 6-7:30 pm. This is an opportunity for prospective families to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. Invite friends you may know who may be looking for a Christian school for their little ones. At this time, enrollment is open to everyone.

Support Our Ministry

The children and staff appreciate your support of our work here at the school. There many ways to support us. Financial donations are wonderful, but there are lots of other opportunities! If you are a member of Thrivent and receive Choice Dollars, you can direct those to the school. Kroger shoppers can direct a percent of their purchases to the school. If you shop online, use Smile.Amazon.com. You can still shop your favorite websites, and the school receives \$0.5% of your purchase. Saving Box Tops also helps us provide our children with technology so they are prepared to enter the public school classrooms.

And donation of your time is often more valuable than money! We have two upcoming fundraisers. One is Marco’s Pizza on January 24th. Remember, you can order all day and you do not need to order only from the location on Starr Avenue. Another fundraiser is a walk-a-thon for our students in early February. The children walk or run laps in the gym and have some fun playing carnival games. Help is needed to mark laps and run the games. Help is always needed for planning, organizing and celebrating! Contact Carol Felderman at 419-691-6480 if you are able to help. Thank you!



ARCHIVE COMMITTEE— PHOTOS WANTED

The archives of First St. John contain many interesting details concerning our formation, mission, and results. However, several “year gaps” exist where nothing has been located. Some of our “milestones” are recorded in amazing detail and others only in the memories of our oldest members.

When WWII ended, rationing and building restrictions relaxed. The servicemen came home, and it became a time for celebration. Memorial and tribute projects became popular. We at First St. John finally chose to decorate our Sanctuary. It was built in 1928, but not painted until 1945. No money for the mortgage or anything else!

The Archive Committee would like your help finding photos that show some portion of the Sanctuary with these very ornate decorations: gold leaf decals, borders, and tan walls fading into blue sky peak. Thank you for your help.

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will resume our regular Jesus and Me (JAM) Sunday School classes on January 7th at 9:00 am. JAM is for children age 3 through sixth grade.



DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION

First St. John Day School will host an Open House on Tuesday, January 23rd from 6-7:30 pm. This is an opportunity for prospective families to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. Invite friends you may know who are looking for a Christian school for their little ones. Enrollment is open to everyone.

Also, please note that fall registration for the Day School's 2018-2019 school year will begin in mid-January (earlier than previous years!). Currently, members of First St. John Lutheran Church have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay no registration fee. The summer program will operate from May 30th – August 3rd, and the fall program will begin on August 15th.

If you have any questions or would like to tour the school, please call our administrator, Carol Felderman, at 419-691-6480.

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Belated Birthday 12-23-1925:

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays have passed, it is time to relax, put Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer away, and prepare for the upcoming Easter season.

I was reviewing some old newspaper clippings collected years ago while working in El Paso, Texas. On Easter Saturday, April 10th, 1993, the *El Paso Times* published an article, “The Easter Bunny and Other Wild Hares,” to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first publication of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Do you remember Flopsy and Mopsy? How about Thumper Rabbit, Peter Cottontail, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, and Br'er Rabbit? Did you sing, “Little Rabbit Foo Foo?” And don't forget Eddie Rabbit, Uncle Wiggly, Oswald Rabbit, Bugs Bunny, Roger Rabbit, the March Hare, the White Rabbit, Winnie the Pooh's friend, Harvey, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and last but not least, “The Energizer Rabbit.”

We at First St John are blessed with our own special Rabbit, Ada Kreger. Ada observed her 92nd birthday on December 23rd. A few “short” years ago, when we rode the school bus together, her name was **Ada Rabbit!**

Happy Belated Birthday!

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our monthly ministry outreach for January is Genacross Lutheran Services. Every day, the ministries of Genacross touch the lives of youth, families, and senior adults in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Genacross provides senior living services, youth and family care services, and outpatient services that focus on enhancing people's lives.

To help support this ministry, please use the specially marked envelopes in the pews for your donations and place them in the offering plate. Or, you can mail them to the church at 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, OH. 43605. Thanks for your generosity.

