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# ✠ First St. John Journal ✠

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Volume 31, Issue 3

March, 2018

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**I**s there anyone who doesn't appreciate a nice compliment from time to time? A compliment truly is oxygen for the soul.

There even is a service on the web that is designed to lift you up when you are down. It is called "Emergency compliment.com." You can go there and see brief messages to feed your ego and boost your mood. Who wouldn't like to be told things like: "Your pet loves you too much to ever run away"? Or "You are someone's 'the one that got away.'" You'll find it there.

The truth is that all of us need a little "pick-me-up" from time to time. Well, how about this little verse from St. Paul: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

Think of that--we are God's handiwork . . . or as one scholar has translated it, "We are God's work of art . . ." When Paul says we are God's handiwork, he is not saying we are perfect. He doesn't even claim that we are better than other people. In fact, he begins this passage describing in detail what rascals we've been. He writes, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . ."

But then he writes, "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ . . ."

We are God's handiwork because of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

St. Paul writes: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works . . ." Can you imagine that he is saying that about your life? It makes no difference who you are. It makes no difference what you've done. It doesn't matter how many strikes are against you. You are His work of art. With His help you can turn your mess into a masterpiece.

That great Christian theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a poem just one month before he was executed: "Who am I? They often tell me I would step from my cell's confinement calmly, cheerfully, firmly, like a squire from his country-house. Who am I? They also tell me I would bear the days of misfortune calmly, smilingly, proudly, like one accustomed to win. Am I really then all that which other men tell of? Or am I only what I know of myself, Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage, struggling for breath . . . weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making, faint, and ready to say farewell to it all? Who am I? This or the other? . . . They mock me, these lonely questions of mine. Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine.

That is the ultimate answer to each day as we arise to live. To affirm, "Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine."

— *Pastor Rayl*

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

Special Lenten worship services continue each Wednesday at 11:00 am in the chapel and at 7:00 pm in the church.



This year's worship is based on six of Jesus' "I am" sayings. Jesus calls himself the:

- ◆ Bread of Life
- ◆ Light of the World
- ◆ Door of the Sheep
- ◆ Resurrection and the Life
- ◆ True Vine

With each of these, Jesus says, "I AM," which identifies him with the name of God, the "I AM" given to Moses during his conversation with God at the burning bush. In this way, the Gospels proclaim that Jesus is I AM, the God who saves and sets people free! Please join us on this Lenten journey.

## ELDER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

	<u>7:45 am</u> (Wed.)	<u>10:15 am</u>
4th	Joanne Henningsen Jeff Ladd	Dick Haar Bob Hecklinger
7th	Joanne Henningsen Jeff Ladd	
11th	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	Ryan Hugueley Jeff Smith
14th	Ryan Hugueley Jeff Smith	
18th	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy
21st	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	
25th	Dick Haar Bob Hecklinger	Joanne Henningsen Jeff Ladd

*Elder volunteers needed for  
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.*

## TIME TO SPRING FORWARD!

Move your clocks ahead one hour  
on Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 am  
(or when you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th).



## WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

This scholarship helps members of  
First St. John attending college for  
the 2018/2019 year. Applications are  
in the church office; they must be completed and  
returned to the church office by March 30th to be  
considered. If you want one emailed to you, please  
contact the church office at [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

## DARTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Lutheran Men's Dartball tournament  
will be held at First St. John on Monday,  
March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 pm in the gym. Set-up  
for the tournament is Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at  
1:30 pm. On the night of the tournament,  
please remember to bring a canned good to donate to  
the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Team  
pictures are at 6:45, with first dart at 7:05 sharp. All  
players please bring \$1.00 to offset the cost of  
donuts and coffee. See you there!



## DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The Day School's Open House will be Tuesday,  
March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. If you or a friend  
has children who will be three or four years of age,  
please come to meet the teachers and see the school!  
For more information, contact Carol Felderman at  
419-691-6480 or check out the school's website at:  
[www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org)

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

None of which we are aware.

### Baptisms

1-28-18

*Everhett Michael Campbell*, born  
March 14, 2016 and *Vera Michelle  
Campbell*, born May 30, 2017 to  
Michael and Amanda (Dickens)  
Campbell. Sponsors for both  
children are Matthew Dickens and  
Erika Csehi.

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

None.

### Transfers to/from First St. John

None.

## 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](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORIALS

### ROOF FUND

In memory of **Bob Ruch** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of **Francis R. Grosjean** by Terry & Jane Schuetz.



### MOVIE NIGHT AT FIRST ST. JOHN

Our next movie night will be Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in the gym, beginning with a light dinner at 5:00 pm. We'll be showing the movie *Courageous* at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Popcorn, other snacks, and beverages will be available. More information will become available as the day gets closer.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MARCH 22nd

### THANK YOU!

The Finance Committee would like to offer our sincere thanks to Chris Hunsaker and Laurie Crouse for doing the audits of the Personal Needs Pantry, Reserve Fund, Operating Account, and Designated funds on January 25<sup>th</sup>. They found all the accounts to be in order. Also, we extend our thanks to Duane Hubaker for auditing the Special Funds. They were found to be in order. These audits took several hours, and we are so grateful for their diligence in completing these tasks!

If anyone has any questions about these audits, please contact anyone on the Finance Committee: Kelley Allred, Lisa Anderson, Pam Beavers, Eric Johnson, Gloria Ross, or LuAnn Spoerl.

### REBECCA CIRCLE NEWS

For our meeting on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, please plan on attending the Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's (fundraiser for our Day School from 8-10 am) prior to coming to our meeting at 11:30. We will hold our regular study, then if you can stay afterward, we will be making table gifts for the Card Party. Please bring your glue gun and scissors if you plan to help. Since we are working on table gifts, we will not have our regular lunch (so eat a lot of pancakes at the fundraiser!).

### EDUCATION BUILDING ROOF PROJECT UPDATE

Periodically, either the Property Management committee or I will update the congregation on the progress of the educational building's roof replacement. We had an initial meeting with the architect and contractor to discuss the contracts, review specifications, voice possible concerns, and exchange contact information. Taking into account the working schedules of the property management team, First St. John decided to appoint a manager to oversee the project, attend weekly meetings, and address issues as they arise. Dan Hugueley has agreed to perform these project manager duties with assistance from the property management team and me. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks. Thank you.

-- Bill Nelson

**Important Notice:** This project is set to begin on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, and is scheduled to finish on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Except for Sundays, there can be NO church activities in the Educational Building during this project. Also, parking in the back lot will be limited to handicap parking on Sundays only. The back parking lot will be closed during the week.

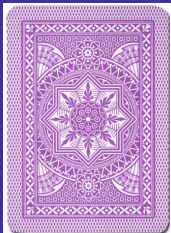
### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING EXTENDED



Because of the bad weather we had in February resulting in lower attendance, we have decided to extend our food drive for Lutheran Social Services through the month of March.

A soup pot is in the Narthex to collect monetary donations—pocket change, a dollar or two—to help keep this program going. Also, shopping carts are in the Narthex and other locations to collect canned goods and other non-perishables. The cart in the JAM room (located in the church basement) is for collecting items from the Sunday School, catechism, and choir. The cart in the basement of the Education Building is for the Day School, and the cart in the Narthex is for everyone else.

Whatever you can do to help support this important ministry is greatly appreciated.



## ANNUAL CARD PARTY

The 27th annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> (note date change from WELCA roster) at noon. For reservations call either the church office (419-691-7222) or Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. The elevator will be available.

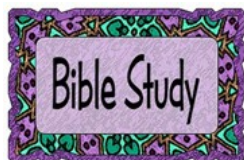
If you can donate a 9x13 dessert to serve at least 12 people, please sign the sheet on the clipboard in the lounge. We also need donations for raffle prizes, with a value of at least \$25 (gift certificates, gift baskets, flower arrangements, etc.) We also need door prizes, either something you make or that you can ask a business to donate. These 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 your donations. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## RUMMAGE SALE / SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Rummage Sale will be Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. You can start bringing your items to the church on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, so clean out your closets and get ready!

## NEW BIBLE STUDIES

A new women's study will have its first session on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will study "Jesus the One and Only" by Beth Moore for 11 weekly sessions. If you haven't filled out the response flyers that went out the last couple of Sundays but still would like to attend, you are very welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call either Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or 419-279-4289.



The men's study is not yet ready to begin, so there's plenty of time to sign up. If you are interested, please call Dave Wilbarger at 419-418-1257.

## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY MARCH FOCUS

Our designated item is toilet paper. The bins for collecting items are under the main board in the Narthex (far left pull-out bin) or the bright green bin in the lounge. Thank you for your help.

## FIRST ST. JOHN ALTAR GUILD EASTER FLOWER SALE



It's time to buy flowers that will decorate the church on Easter Sunday. The price is \$9.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth or tulip plant. The last Sunday to order is March 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.***

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

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### 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:*

**Chelsea Folk  
Lynn Folk  
Family of Brent Hagedorn  
Phyllis Schuffenecker  
Jim Wagner  
Connie Wiener**

### 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:*

**Maureen Albright  
Karyl & Lee Antoine  
Wayne Bauman  
Karen Bless  
Sandy Bohland  
The Burk Family  
Jeannette Carlo  
Carol Cheatham  
Greg Contat  
Jackie Curtis  
Janet Davis  
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins  
Dorothy Felderman  
Patty Gable  
Donna Haar  
Julius Haller  
Marcia Henninger  
Rose Hensley  
Tom Iserman  
Mark Kieswetter  
Jason Kindal  
Ilean Labuhn  
Kate Lajti  
Scott Langlois  
The Lee Family  
Janice Logsdon  
Martha Meyers  
Donna Miller  
Jeanette Miller  
James Moore  
Mary Bell Moore  
Bill Morse  
Chuck Neal  
Calvin Nelson  
Pam Pirolli**

**Hunter Potter  
Mike Ray  
Sheryl Rayl  
Cathy Redmond  
Michael Rheinbolt & Family  
Jason Rhuland  
Dr. Steve Rowe  
Tom Sabin  
Norm Schumaker  
Jack & Lauren Seibert  
Connie Singlar  
Tom Smith  
Joan Tilton  
Steve Uzl  
Ralph Vogtsberger  
Kent Wolf  
Darlene Worz  
John & Grace Yard  
Dayle Young Family  
Mary Zimmer  
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](mailto:cabbey@jcrinc.com)

Lynn Folk 419-691-3410  
Donna Koehn 419-693-5030  
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166



### **CEMETERY CLEAN UP**

Please remove older decorations and grave blankets, especially those from Christmas. Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### **PRAYER CHAIN NEWS**

In an effort to expand our base of people who are praying, we want to add many more people to our Prayer Chain's email distribution list. By joining, you will become more up-to-date on new prayer requests and updates we receive (rather than just seeing the list on Sundays). If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain email distribution list, please send your email address to Carol Abbey at [cabbey@jcrinc.com](mailto:cabbey@jcrinc.com). If you don't have a computer but would like to be contacted about prayer chain additions, please call either Gloria Ross at 419-836-7166 or the church office at 419-691-7222.

## DAY SCHOOL NEWS

### *Support the Ministry of First St. John Day School*

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

Our theme this year is "It's Still All About Jesus," based on Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever." How much reassurance we receive knowing the faith that brought us to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ will not change. Things in this world are changing at a very fast pace and, I must say, often not for the better. As I continue to study God's Word, I see things I missed or did not understand when I was younger. Now after years of experiences, I look at things differently and realize I still have a lot to learn. It is like finishing college when we think we know all the answers. Ha, ha...and then life happens!

We also want to remember the 18,000 dedicated 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 and families placed in our care.

Our Day School children will sing during the 10:15 service on March 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a reception for the families after the service. This is an 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 back to church! We often think of returning to places where we have personal connections.

### *Open House*

First St. John Day School will host an Open House on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for prospective families to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. Invite friends you may know with young children who may be looking for a Christian school for their little ones. Enrollment is open to everyone—members and non-members alike.

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!

Perhaps you are a member of Thrivent and receive Choice Dollars. Direct those dollars to the school. If you shop at Kroger, you can direct a percent of your purchase to the school. If you shop online, use Smile.Amazon.com. You can still shop your favorite websites, and the school will receive \$0.5% of your purchase. Saving Box Tops for Education helps; it's hard to believe those little things quickly add up to \$100 for the school! We want to provide our children with technology so they are prepared to enter the public school classrooms.

Donation of your time often is more valuable than money. We have some projects that need helping hands. We will be checking those Time and Talent surveys you are completing!

### *Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's*

Lutheran Schools Week begins on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> with a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's from 8-10 am. Tickets are \$8.00, and it includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, two strips of bacon, and a beverage. It is our last big fundraiser for the year, so please bring your family and friends to come and eat!

### *Fall Registration*

Fall registration for the Day School has begun. Members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay no registration fee.

Classes are available for three and four-year-old children, with Extended Care available for everyone. The Fall program will begin on August 15<sup>th</sup>. *NOTE:* Because of the Education Building's Roof Replacement Project this summer, we are not able to offer our Summer program this year.

Attend the Open House on March 6<sup>th</sup> or call the Day School at 419-691-6480 for more information and to schedule a tour of the school. You can also check out our website at [www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org) for more information.

— Carol Felderman

## QUILTING NEWS

Some of the quilts have been donated to a few organizations in northwest Ohio. Here is the list, with how many were donated: Kidney Dialysis – 8, Beach House/Family House – 12, YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter – 12, Bethany House – 12, Cocoon Shelter in Bowling Green – 12, and Toledo Public Schools – 20.

The quilting group continues quilting on Monday mornings at 9:30 am in the lounge through the end of March. Everyone is welcome to come. Thanks, quilters, for your ministry!

## HOMEBOUND COMMUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We need more people to join our Homebound Communion team. Training will be provided. If you think you might be interested or need more information, please see Pastor Rayl or contact the church office at 419-691-7222. Please prayerfully consider this rewarding ministry.

## EAT, DRINK, & BE GIVING GALA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our Eat, Drink, and Be Giving Gala fundraiser for the Day School will be Saturday, October 13th. We need lots of help to make this a success for our Day School. We ALL have God-given talents—it's time for you to share yours! If you could not make the February 26th meeting but still want to help, please call our coordinator, LuAnn Spoerl, at 419-836-1651.

### *Donations for the Gala*

One of the activities planned for the Gala is a wine pull. We are asking for donations of bottles of wine \$20.00 and up. We hope to have wine donated from around the country, showcasing everyone's adventures, day trips, and/or their winery of choice. This wine can be turned in to the church or Day School offices. PLEASE ATTACH THE PRICE OF THE WINE AND WHO DONATED THE BOTTLE when you donate it. We will give you credit for your donation. Also, the value is important as we'll have several bottles in the pull worth \$50.00 or more. Wine will be collected until September 1, 2018.

### **"Short Stacks for a Tall Cause"**

Come out for a tasty pancake breakfast at Applebee's (Northwood location near Meijer's) on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 to 10:00 am to help support our Day School. The cost of the breakfast is \$8.00 (children under three years old are free). The menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, 2 slices of bacon, and juice, milk or coffee, which will be served by the Day School teachers and board members. You can purchase tickets at the door or through the Day School or church offices. We appreciate your support.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP *Change of Location for March!*

Join us on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 am at the Applebee's near Meijer's in Northwood (note location change). We'll have our regular devotion and support our Day School's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser (see article above) at the same time. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 if you need a ride.



### **MOVING?**

Please notify the office when your address has changed. Newsletters sent to your old address are re-routed, but the church pays a fee each time this happens. OR, consider having the newsletter emailed to you to save postage. If you would like the newsletter and calendar e-mailed to you, please send your e-mail address to: [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

## NIGHTTIME CHILDREN'S PRAYER



Thank you to Jean DeWitt who shared this prayer her mother once taught her:

Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me.  
Bless thy little lamb tonight.  
Through the darkness be Thou near me.  
Keep me safe til morning light. Amen.