
♥ First St. John Journal ♥

Volume 33, Issue 2

February 2020



“Living,” wrote the Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega, “is a constant process of deciding what we are going to do.” The last Wednesday of this month is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and one of the questions we should answer ahead of time is, “what we are going to do” to make Lent a meaningful spiritual experience. That means the real questions are: What shall we do to enhance our spiritual life? How shall we make our Christian walk and our Christian talk more uniform so we don’t say one thing and do another? In short, how can we— to use St. Paul’s words—“put on the Lord Jesus Christ” so the light of Christ shines through us more clearly?

Beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26th, we will begin our traditional midweek Lenten worship services each Wednesday at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. This year’s services will all be held in the sanctuary. Our emphasis will be upon the theme for 2020, set by the Northwestern Ohio Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin as “The Year of Mission.” In describing this theme, Bishop Beaudoin wrote: “God has a mission, and God’s mission has a church. In Scripture, we encounter the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) working to restore and renew all things. The Bible begins with creation and ends with the promise of a new creation. The Triune God is working to renew everyone and everything and invites us to participate.”

Our midweek services will center around a special worship series for Lent and Holy Week, titled “To Seek and To Save.” During our journey, we will follow Jesus as he turns toward Jerusalem and the

cross. We will walk in his footsteps, from the miracle of the raising of Lazarus to Jesus’ own empty tomb on Easter morning. This was the purpose for which Jesus had come—to seek and to save the lost. We will be inspired to consider how we each have been sought and saved, and in turn how Jesus works through us To Seek and To Save others.

As we begin the 40-day season of Lent on February 26th, you are invited to attend our Ash Wednesday worship to receive the mark of ashes, a reminder that we are sinners redeemed by Christ the Crucified. In our lesson from God’s Word, we will learn that, just as Lazarus was unbound and released from his burial wrappings, we are released from the deadly bonds of our sin through the forgiveness that is ours in Christ Jesus. Then, as those who are redeemed and called, we are not to become “settled,” but rather to be “sent” as individuals and as a community.

So mark your calendars and plan to join in our journey of faith and discovery as we begin our Lenten worship series “To Seek and To Save.” Watch for additional information in future weekly bulletins and emails.

— *Pastor Rayl*

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is February 26th, and it begins the six-week season of Lent. During Lent we will have special worship services each Wednesday, starting with Ash Wednesday at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary.

This year’s worship theme is “To Seek and to Save.” Pastor Rayl’s article on this page gives more detail about this worship series.

Mark your calendars and be certain to join us for these special devotional opportunities during this Lenten season.

ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
2nd	Ben Hodges Bob Hecklinger	Jeff Ladd Jeff Smith
9th	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy	Dick Haar Tom Eppard
16th	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar
23rd	Jeff Ladd Jeff Smith	Ben Hodges Bob Hecklinger

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Throughout February we will collect money and canned goods to help the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry program. LSS provides food for over 15,000 people each year. Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchase food for the pantry. This program is supported entirely by donations of food and money from local congregations.

A soup pot will be in the Narthex to collect monetary donations—pocket change, a dollar or two—to help keep this program going. Also, shopping carts will be in the Narthex and other locations to collect canned goods and other non-perishables. Whatever you can do to help support this important ministry is greatly appreciated.



ATTENTION CATECHISM STUDENTS & PARENTS

We will be delivering the food items collected during our month-long Souper Bowl of Caring event on Sunday, March 22nd after the late service.



WELCA NEWS

Our last meeting was held at the Oregon Inn, and we discussed replacing the windows in the Altar Guild room. We spoke with Dan Hugueley about the estimates he has received and found he is waiting on one more estimate. Chris Hunsaker also is calling a company to give us an estimate. The Board discussed the possibility of getting 10 more chairs for the lounge that Pastor suggested we purchase. We are looking into the price and where we purchased them before. Thanks to Lisa Anderson for finding the receipt regarding the original chair purchase in July of 2015. The Board will discuss this more when we meet in February.

The Rummage sale is coming up, and we are looking for a couple of ladies to help chair this event. Please call Sue Ann or any of the Board members to let us know if you would like to take over this position. We will need men to run the elevator during the sale. Thanks in advance for your help.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 17th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women are welcome to attend. Hope to see you at our next meeting!

— Sue Ann Rogers



**LUTHERAN
SOCIAL
SERVICES**
of Northwestern Ohio Since 1911
A Christian Agency
Serving People of All Ages

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our monthly ministry outreach for February is the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry, which is also the focus of our “Souper Bowl of Caring” collection (see article at the top of the page).

Special envelopes will be in the pews if you would like to donate monetarily to support this ministry. Please make out your check to First St. John and write “LSS Food Pantry” on the memo line. Thank you!

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____



MEMORIALS



WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Dr. William Winslow by Beverlee Winslow.

IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of Marcia Henninger by Michael Sprague, Connie Wiener, Joan Probasco.

In memory of Kim Cousino by Chuck & Betty Hyre, Louise Sommers.

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Dwaine Betz by Julie, Linda and Larry Moritz.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Dwaine Betz by Gene Hagedorn.

In memory of Kim Cousino by Gene Hagedorn.

DEBT RETIREMENT FUND

In memory of Dwaine Betz by Gerald Goralski, Mark Franks, Cliff & Madonna Bury, Joe, Jerri, Greg and Tim Kucera, Chuck Bell, Rae Zeisler, Eileen Smith, Lynn & Gary Langel, Dawn Betz Peiffer, Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of Kim Cousino by Bob & Sherrie Haar, Mike & Donna Winslow, Henry & Joanne Schumaker, Sue Moszkowicz.

In memory of Marcia Henninger by Sue Moszkowicz.

In memory of John Spoerl by Sue Moszkowicz.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Kim Cousino by Jean DeWitt, Mike, Marilyn and Gregory Antonini, Bill, Donna, Ryan and Rachel Nelson, Janet Morrison, Chuck & Andra Bell, Jeff & Gaye Boggs, LuAnn Spoerl, Gene & Janet Schacht, Cindy & Eric Johnson, Robert Hecklinger, George Blum, Esther Bell, Frank & Barb Meyers, The Hecklingers, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Larry & Darlene Paul, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Tom & Janet Eppard, Dan & Sandra Knitz, Janet & Thomas Woodard, Barry & Ann Ramlow, Marge Bollinger, Betty TenEyck, Sue TenEyck, Ruth Cummerow, Joyce Yard, Chuck & Jane Neal, Connie Wiener, Tammy Lehnert, Karen Frey, Terry & Jane Schuetz.

In memory of Harold Brossia by Joanne & Henry Schumaker.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Kim Cousino by Penny DeWitt.

MEMBER UPDATES

Births

None of which we are aware.

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

1-1-2020 Kim Cousino

Transfers to/from First St. John:

None.

2020 ROSTERS FOR WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The new 2020 roster booklets are available for pick up in the lounge. You can find them on the tables near the double doors. These booklets contain all WELCA event dates, the members of the Altar Guild, Bereavement Committee, and circles, plus details regarding ongoing WELCA projects.

SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL CARD PARTY



The 29th annual Card Party & Luncheon is Tuesday, April 21st at noon. The elevator will be available. We also need donations for both raffle and door prizes, so be on the lookout for items you can donate. We will have collection boxes for your donations next month. More details will be forthcoming in the March bulletins and newsletter.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our study begins Monday, February 3rd and runs through March 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm each Monday. We will study "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer. The format will include watching a 30-40 minute video, group discussion and fellowship, along with a workbook for personal study at home. The cost of the workbook is \$14.99, and you can order yours online from www.LifewayChristian.com We will meet in the JAM room in the church basement. Contact Karen Holmes at 419-691-3225 or email her at cheh17@aol.com to RSVP or if you have any questions.

First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

(as of January 28, 2020)

Crisis Prayer Chain List

This list is for those who need our prayers in an urgent matter such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to "Chronic Prayer List" after the 1st month unless one of the prayer chain contacts is contacted:

Family of Harold Brossia
Family of Kim Cousino
Joy DeVore & Family
Robin Duck & Family
Joanna Melden
Erich Schiddel
Vicky Singh
Family of Jason Sommers
Diane Swartz
Kellyn Wingate

Ongoing Concerns

This list is for those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off the list after three months unless one of the prayer chain contacts has been contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

Lee & Karyl Antoine
Lynn Balogh
Betsy (no last name given) & family
Karen Bless
The Burk Family
Rosie Burtch
Jeannette Carlo
Pat Christy
Eleanor Cochenour
Greg Contat
Marjorie Counterman
Nancy Coy
Dick Crouse
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
Chiara Del-Mace
Ann Dudics
Andy Dupris
Dylan (no last name given)
Dorothy Felderman
Sara Florian
Sharon Grames
Jim Harrell
Toni Henline
Mike Henneman
Karen Huber
Dana Justice
Phyllis Kelly
Mark Kieswetter
Joanne Koch
Tom Kohn
Carole Kolibar

Ada Kreger
The Lee Family
Heidi Le Grand
Joyce Martin
Teresa Mc Farland
Donald Meyer
Donna Miller
Mary Bell Moore
Bill Morse
Keith Mullen
Margie Myers
Chuck Neal
Joyce Ostapowicz
Pfouts Family
Pam Pirolli
Mike Ray
Michael Rheinbolt & Family
Logan Roberts
Dave Ross
Neil Rutledge
Gene Schacht
Rick Schumaker
Connie Singlar
Skylar (no last name given)
LuAnn Spoerl
Michelle Stanberry
Becky Thielan
Joan Tilton
Samuel Unnerstall
Steve Uzl
Jim Vogelsang
Nick Wasserman
Barb West
John & Grace Yard
Raetta Zeisler

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed in the next column-know if individuals can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Coordinator, Carol Abbey
419-351-9795 or cabbeyrn@aol.com

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

MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



The Men's and Women's Breakfast Fellowship groups will again combine for our next breakfast on Saturday, February 8th at 8:00 am at the Woodville Diner on Woodville Rd. If you need a ride, call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

FIRST ST. JOHN DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Winter is here. It may be cold outside, but the students of the Day School are full of energy and excited to be learning at school every day. I would like to thank everyone who came to the Masquerade Murder Mystery Dinner on January 25th. We had a great time, and since we received such good feedback, we will probably do it again.

This February we will have our Valentine's Day parties and prepare the children to learn about Lent. We also will be opening our children's library and computer lab.

Registration for the 2020-2021 Day School fall program has begun. The registration fee is waived for active members of the church, but you must still complete the registration form to reserve a spot for your child. Children must be at least three years old and potty-trained. Our classes are from 9:00 am to noon, with extended care available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Our annual Open House will be Wednesday, March 4th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Invite anyone you know who is looking for a quality preschool to come and visit. They (and you!) can stop in and talk with the teachers and tour our facility. Everyone is welcome!

We are now planning our Summer Child Care program for children ages 3-12 years old. The Day School plans to host summer camps each week with a different theme. We are welcoming children for both childcare and those looking for fun activities. Watch for more on that in the coming weeks.

Another date to look out for is our annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's, which will be held on Saturday, March 7th. Look for more details in the upcoming bulletins and March newsletter. We hope to see you all there.

— *Andrea Buckley*



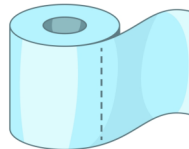
FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Don't forget our ongoing ministry to the Feed Your Neighbor program. Donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated. Please place your donations in the two right-hand bins under the main bulletin board in the Narthex or in the marked blue plastic bin in the lounge. Remember, no glass jars, please. Thank you!

NEXT A.W.E. SERVICE FEBRUARY 12th

Don't miss the next Adoration Worship Experience on Wednesday, February 12th in the lounge on the middle floor of the Education Building. We meet at 5:30 pm for a light supper, followed by our worship at 6:30 pm. Please note that we will not hold A.W.E. services during the Lenten season.

TOILET PAPER DRIVE

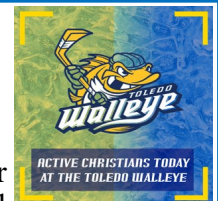


The East Region Churches United (ERCU), a group of east side churches, has identified one of the most critical "top 10" needs in our community is toilet paper. To address this need First St. John, along with other churches in the area, will be collecting toilet paper. Please place your donations in the alcove behind the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

After the collection is finished, the toilet paper will be distributed to several area ministries, including Food for Thought, Personal Needs Pantry, Ashland Church, Birmingham Food Pantry, Jerusalem Township Food Pantry, and others.

NOTE: Monetary donations also are needed. Make out your check to First St. John and write "ERCU" in the memo line. Thank you for your help!

"FAITH & FAMILY" EVENT AT TOLEDO WALLEYE



Join us on Sunday, March 1st for this special Lutheran Social Services event that includes not only attending the Walleye game, but also a pre-game program where the Walleye players will talk about how their Christian faith is important to them in their day-to-day living. This program begins at 3:30 pm and will be led by the Walleye Chaplain, Tom Fraser. The game is at 5:15 pm.

Everyone is invited. Our FSJ youth (and one guest) can pay \$10 for the event; tickets for everyone else will be \$20. Chaperones and transportation are needed. If you would like to attend, please notify Pastor Rayl as soon as possible so we can reserve extra tickets, if needed.



PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY — FEBRUARY PRODUCT FOCUS

Our designated item in February is paper towels. Other items are always welcome: laundry soap, fabric softener, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, shampoo, disposable razors, feminine hygiene pads, band aids, body soap, etc. 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. Thank you for your help.

BRING A SMILE TO SOMEONE'S DAY



The J.A.M. Sunday School children will make valentines on February 9th, to be delivered to the Genacross Lutheran Home in time for Valentine's Day. If you can, please stop in the JAM room (basement of the church) to sign the cards.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

This scholarship helps graduating seniors of First St. John who will attend college for the 2020/2021 school year. Money comes from the proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members. Contact the church office for an application. You must return your application to the church office by March 30th to be considered.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Our next dinner will be Wednesday, February 19th at 6:00 pm. The menu includes sliders, baked beans, mac n' cheese, chips & dip, and dessert. If you would like to attend, please fill out the slip below and return it to the church office or the offering plate. See you soon!

*Yes, I/we will attend Dinner With Friends
on Wednesday, February 19th*

Name (s): _____

Phone Number: _____

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save these dates because the next few months will be very busy here at First St. John. Look for more information about these events in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

February 2: Souper Bowl of Caring Kick Off
February 12: A.W.E. Service
February 19: Dinner With Friends
February 26: Ash Wednesday Services (with Lenten Services each Wednesday through April 1st)

March 2: Dartball Tournament in the gym
March 4: Day School Open House
March 7: Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for School
March 22: Souper Bowl of Caring Items Delivered

April 6-13: Day School Spring Break
April 9: Maundy Thursday
April 10: Good Friday
April 12: Easter
April 21: Card Party

April 30 & May 1: Rummage Sale
May 13: A.W.E. Service

Activities Not Yet Scheduled: Youth Sunday, Possible Youth Outing to UT Basketball Game, Spring Movie Night, Spring Dinner With Friends

FLOWER REMINDER

Don't forget, you can honor or remember your loved ones with flowers for the altar. Find the red flower book in back of the church under the bulletin board and sign up for the Sunday you want. Vases are \$15 each; you can take an envelope out of the book to use for payment or mail it to the church office.

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