



First St. John Journal



Volume 37, Issue 8

August, 2024

GOD IS A FRIEND INDEED!



On July 22-25th we hosted our ‘SCUBA! Diving Into Friendship with God’ themed VBS and it was a huge success! We had 46 combined kids and youth that attended or volunteered,

and 16 adult volunteers! The kids learned about God’s great love for them, and that God is a friend who is real and loves them deeply! He can be trusted with all our worries and fears, and he is for everyone!

On day one we explored how God is a friend who is REAL. We started every night off with a fabulous dinner provided by our volunteers and kicked things off in our underwater decorated sanctuary. The bible lesson was from 1 Kings 18-19 when God shows himself to the prophet, Elijah. Elijah experienced the reality of God through fire, and later in a whisper. This passage helped kids who struggle with questions about the truth of a God they can’t see or hear.

On day two we dove into the truth that God is a friend who LOVES. This day we spent learning about how God showed compassion to the people of Nineveh, and the story of Jonah and the whale (Jonah 1-3). The kids especially loved our make-shift whale that inflated and they could crawl inside his mouth!

On Day three we learned that God is a friend we can TRUST. The children learned from Mark 4:35-41 how Jesus calmed a storm. Our activities for the day were all about God calming the storms if we cry out to him. The kids especially loved pretending to be on a boat in a storm and hearing Jesus tell the waters to be STILL!

Lastly, we finished on day four learning that God is a friend FOREVER. “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.” (John 11:25). The kids learned the signifi-

cance of an empty tomb and God’s promise to believers.

It was an amazing week filled with food, games, Bible lessons, crafts, science experiments and a lot of smiles and laughs! We also collected a special project offering each night to benefit our very own Personal Needs Pantry. We collected 65 items for the pantry! We also brought 27 new kids who had never attended First St. John into our building for the week, which means 27 new flower hand prints on our children’s mural in the basement. Make sure you check it out!

Without dedicated volunteers and our teens who helped all week it wouldn’t have been possible. Thanks to all the volunteers, parents and kids that made this a great week! A special thanks to all who helped decorate, coordinate, and cook all week! You were all a part of planting the word of God in the children who attended! We continue to pray that by the end of the week they learned that God is a friend INDEED!

~ Jennifer Hess

AUGUST SPECIAL GUEST **MUSICIANS**

August 4th- Emily Lipper, trumpet

August 11th- Lesli McCage Simmons,
Clarinet

August 18th- Dana Baker, baritone

August 25th- Patricia McCauley, soprano



MEMBER UPDATES

Births

5-14-24 Braedin Lee-Jennings Shooter
son of Nathaneal & Lexi Mae Hall

Baptisms

6-9-2024 Matea M. Cousino
Corbin F. Cousino

6-23-24 Nathaneal W. Shooter
Braedin Lee-Jennings Shooter

Marriages

6-29-24 Ronald & Lori (Weis) Schieb

Deaths

7-3-24 Ruth Ziethlow
8-6-24 Tom Hartford

Transfers to/from First St. John

LESSON READERS NEEDED!

As the summer comes to a close, we are in need of weekly lesson readers when we return to two services stating in September. Please reach out to Jennifer in the office if interested in helping fill our weekly readers or if you have any questions at 419-691-7222.



BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP FOR AUGUST

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 10th at 8:30 am at the Woodville Diner on Woodville Rd. Join us for a devotion, breakfast, and fellowship. For more information, please see Bob Haar.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Our next meeting is Monday, September 9th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

Changes in personnel can be difficult and fraught with emotion, but after much discussion and careful consideration, we've decided not to renew the contract of the choir director, Dr. Joan Waldorf. This was effective as of Monday, July 22nd. It was not a quick or easy decision, following an evaluation process involving members of the choir and congregation. We provided a generous severance package during the cordial and professional meeting we had with her.

We felt, for the long-term success of the choir, that a change was warranted. We informed the choir immediately after the meeting, and of course, there was a concern of us being without a choir director. We have discussed the search with Dr. Tony, and given his vast network of talented individuals, it gives me great confidence that we will find another choir director soon.

Regards,
Dave Wilbarger
Church Council president

BOY SCOUT NEWS



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA
ERIE SHORES COUNCIL

First St. John has been in conversation with the Erie Shores Council of The Boy Scouts of America for establishing a Scouting Pack sponsored by FSJ. At the last Church council meeting approval was given to proceed with organizing the pack which would include both boys and girls according to the recent changes in Scouting by the BSA. Moving forward with this ministry outreach will require assembling a core group of volunteers from the congregation and any supporting groups including the FSJ Day School. These include the core oversight committee to the Cubmaster and Den Leaders. If you feel called to be part of the ministry, please contact Pastor Rayl as soon as possible, 419-691-7222.

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), emailing (office@firststjohn.com) or mailing the changes to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____



ATTENTION, WELCA BOARD

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:30pm.

BORROWING TABLES AND CHAIRS



We offer the use of the tables and chairs in the parsonage garage (not from the gym, please) as needed for summer events. Please call Jennifer in the church office at 419-691-7222 ahead of time to reserve them. Thank you.

CHURCH NURSERY

We are starting a church nursery that will happen in the fall during our 10:30am service. We would like to gather some new items for a fresh start. We have created an Amazon wish list, but will also take donations at any time for the items listed. Please drop off in the church narthex (lobby) or to the church office during the week M-F 9am-4pm.

The nursery will be an important ministry as it will allow parents to attend service with care provided for their young children. Items that can be donated:

- Puzzles (large piece, toddler type)
- Baby Dolls
- Small and large plastic farm animals/people
- Plastic building blocks
- Stacking Toys
- See & Say
- Pop-Up Pals
- Hand Sanitizer, disinfectant wipes or baby wipes

AMAZON LINK: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/KK9RDKARMSQN?ref_=wl_share

EMAILING THE NEWSLETTER

Postage rates continue to rise. If you don't already, will you consider receiving your First St. John newsletter by email? Please email Jennifer at office@firsststjohn.com to be added to our distribution list. Thank you.



SAVE THE DATE!

We will return to two services on Sept 8th at 8am and 10:30am Watch upcoming newsletters and announcements for more info.

ELDERS FOR AUGUST



In August, we will continue our summer worship services at 9:00 am. We will return to our regular schedule on September 8th.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 th | Ben Hodges, Matt Miller |
| 11 th | Dick Haar, John Roth |
| 18 th | Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy |
| 25 th | Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger |

LAYETTE MINISTRY COLLECTION



The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are collecting baby care items to make up kits that will be sent to needy families. If you would like to donate, there will be a collection box in the lounge, or you can bring them to the church office. Here are the items we need:

- lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies) *
- long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) *
- receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light weight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap *
- pairs of socks
- hand towel, dark color recommended
- bath size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)
- diaper pins or large safety pins



PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

August's focus item is bar soap. Reminder: Items should last the individual for a month, so please, no travel or hotel sizes. You can deposit items in either the bright green bin in the lounge or the left pull-out drawer next to the Feed Your Neighbor bins in the Narthex under the main bulletin

MEMORIALS (as of 7/23/24)

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Joanne Schumaker by Gene Hagedorn.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of Joanne Schumaker by Emily Kruse, Fern Rohr.

In memory of Connie Deal by Chuck & Betty Hyre.

In honor of Sue Ann Moszkowicz's 70th birthday by Penny DeWitt, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Penny DeWitt, Carol Schwegler, Marge Bollinger.

In memory of Ruth Ziethlow by Terry & Jane Schuetz.

DEBT FUND

In memory of Joanne Schumaker by Jim Cousino, Dennis & Elizabeth Pavely, Elaine Gladieux, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Steve & Mary Alice Mix, Phil & Vikki Cox.

In memory of Hank & Joanne Schumaker by Barry & Ann Ramlow.

In memory of Ruth Ziethlow by Terry & Jane Schuetz.

CURRENT FUND

In memory of Hank & Joanne Schumaker by Sue Ann Moszkowicz.

In memory of Eleanor Cochenour by Sue Ann Moszkowicz.

In memory of Ruth Ziethlow by Sue Ann Moszkowicz.

CHOIR

In memory of Ruth Ziethlow by Chuck & Betty Hyre, Betty TenEyck, Julie Miller, Mary Ellen Miller, Bob & Sherrie Haar, Sue Kimmet, Jane Neal, Ginny Nissen, Colleen Eliff, Rebecca Circle.

MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Sue Ann Moszkowicz's 70th birthday by Penny DeWitt.

IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of Ruth Ziethlow by Penny DeWitt.

QUILTERS

In honor of Sue Ann Moszkowicz's 70th birthday by Ginny Nissen.

AUGUST CIRCLE MEETINGS

RUTH CIRCLE

Will meet Tuesday, August 6th in the church's back parking lot to carpool to Spaghetti Warehouse for lunch.

REBECCA CIRCLE

Will meet on Saturday, August 3rd at 11:30 am at the Old Bag of Nails restaurant for lunch.

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Will meet on Wednesday, August 7th at 11:30 am at Applebee's in Northwood.

HANNAH CIRCLE

Will not meet in the Summer. See everyone again in the Fall!

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY JULY UPDATE

In July, we served 117 adults and 27 children. 15 FSJ volunteers served 30 hours of time this past month to make sure the pantry ran smoothly. Our donations were slightly down this month and the number of people served was up. We did collect 64 items from the children during VBS which helped greatly!

JULY STATS:

232 - TOTAL PRODUCT DONATIONS
\$299 - TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS
144 - TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED
15 - TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
30 - VOLUNTEER HOURS
1,631- TOTAL PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED
\$1300 - TOTAL COST TO FUND PANTRY

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED ITEMS OR TIME! WE ARE SERVING AN IMPORTANT NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY!

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE—AUGUST 21st

First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 8-6-24)

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:

Angela
Phyllis Brown
Peggy Burke
Carol Crosser
Dick Crouse
Ann Dudics
Duke
Norman Eck
Martha Everett
Family of Tom Hartford
Jody
Kaitlyn
Sharon Kassay
Deborah Kidwell
Rebecca Kohn
Helen K.
Family of Fred Kruse
Paul Lambrecht
Marc LeDuc
Rick & Judy Lepiarz
Chad Milner
Janet Mooney
Bill Nelson
Teresa Nye
John Puhl
Dan S.
Skylar
June Smarkel
Steve Welling
Dave Wilbarger Sr.
Arlene Wilbarger
Ruth Zasada

Ongoing Concerns 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:

Bennett
Elizabeth Bland
Karen Bless
Pastor Joe Brosious
Amy Brumley
Debbie Campbell
Brenda Chambers
Marjorie Counterman
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
Brian Everett
Janet Fern

Joe Frobase
James Goorman
Laura Grace
Grace Harris Greenbank
Holly Henneman
Gary Henningsen
Cindy Herrera
Katrin Howard
Kathy Johnson
Linda Joshi
Cindy Knavel
Sue Knudsen
Tom Kohn
Eleanor Lang
Darlene Lorenzen
Tina McQuilin
Bonnie Meier
Patty Meyer
Deborah Miller
Donna Miller
Mary Bell Moore
Karen Morrison
Logan Murphy
Rosann Murray
Nick
Pam Pirolli
Janet Quiroga
John Ranchan
Sherry Reamsnyder
Steven Riegle
Rhonda
Kevin Ruedy
Laura Scherer
Mary Alice Sheehan
Bill Shedron
Shelley Sherman
Connie Singlar
Jim Sommers Jr
James Spenthoff
Julie Swanson
Tom Tedrow
Joyce Trowbridge
Terry Vogalsang
Greg Wagner
Deb Dusseau Warnke
Katelyn Weirich
Jean Wilson
Donna Winslow
John Yard
Raetta Zeisler
Bernie Zielinski

Check the list and let a prayer chain contact know if someone can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

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

Lynn Folk 419-309-7977
Donna Koehn 419-705-9560
Darlene Lorenzen 419-351-6293
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166



Greetings from the Day School! The summer has been flying by and we are having a great time with our summer program. I am so grateful that our summer camp has been such a success, and that we have gotten to know so many new families. We are preparing for our new school year to begin. The first day of school will be August 19th.

We will also be hosting a back to school night/open house on August 16th from 4:00-5:30. This will give students and their families a chance to meet the teachers, see the classrooms and to have some fun before school starts.

If you or anyone you know is looking for child care or preschool this fall, classes are filling up quickly. Registration information can be found on our website at www.firststjohndayschool.org

Our fall classes are as follows:

- **3-year-old preschool:** Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- **3-year-old preschool:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- **4-year-old preschool:** Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- **4-year-old preschool:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- Our **Beginnergarten** program is for 5 year olds who have missed the kindergarten cutoff date for the public schools, or who need an extra year before kindergarten. Beginnergarten hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm with the option for extended care hours.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please call me at 419-691-6480.

— Andrea Buckley

“BEGINNERGARTEN”



Our Beginnergarten class is for kids who will be five years old by November 1st. It runs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday. On site before-and-after-school care also is available.

This program helps students who may have missed the age requirement of their public school, but who have already been through two years of preschool. Increasing academic demands for kindergarten students means public schools have less time to nurture social and emotional skills. So we offer more academics than regular pre-k programs, but also include play, which is important for little ones. Call Andrea Buckley at 419-691-6480 if interested.

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH



COMMUNITY CARE-A-VAN

The ministry outreach for August is **Community Care-A-Van**. The Community Care-a-Van service was established in 2000 to help those who are unable to get transportation to their important medical services. They pick up the patient, take them to their appointments, and then transport them back home. This service is free to the patient and is entirely supported by donations. They serve patients in East Toledo, Walbridge, Lake Twp., Jerusalem Twp., Northwood, and Oregon. If you would like to help support this program, please use one of the pink envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate during in-person worship, or you can mail your donation to the church office.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



Jennifer would like to thank everyone for the many prayers, kind words and cards sent to her during her recent illness and surgery. A special thanks to Toni Wilbarger, and Darlene Paul who helped out in the office, and also to Andrea Buckley and Shela Stringham who helped organize needs for VBS in her absence. Also, thanks to all who provided meals during this time and for your patience! Your love, kind words, prayers and help were truly felt! She is happy to be back and that it was in time for VBS!