



# First St. John Journal



Volume 38 Issue 6 & 7

June / July 2025

**H**ere is some interesting observations I came across last week while preparing the Sermon that I thought you might enjoy, too.

In Yakima, Washington, sometime back a dying man made a strange request. On his deathbed, Grant Flory said to his family: "Get me to the Mustangs' playoffs. No matter what." He was referring to his old high school team, The Prosser Mustangs. So in early December, when the Mustangs played in Seattle's Kingdome, Flory's cremated remains were in attendance. His son Dwight approached the stadium gate wearing a camera bag that contained his father's urn. He was stopped by a guard who asked what was in the bag.

"It's my dad," the dutifully son replied.

The guard looked puzzled but allowed the ashes inside. Family members said anyone who knew Grant Flory wouldn't be surprised by his request. He was a real football fan.

It is the dream of every pastor to have a congregation filled with people who are that determined to be in worship every Sunday. I need not even say to you that there are church members who are much more dedicated to their favorite sports team than they are to God. They give more money to their team. They know more about the players on the roster than they ever will about the heroes of the Bible. And I will not live to see the days when people in the average congregation will sit in a cold, miserable rain to worship God like many will do to cheer on their favorite team. Perhaps that's because we don't understand the essential nature of the church. I believe if we could see the church as Christ sees the church, we would not take attendance as casually as we do. Jesus, in his prayer for the church recorded in John's gospel, helps us see the church as he means for it to be.

FIRST OF ALL, JESUS PRAYS FOR OUR UNITY. He prays "that they all may be

one." (RSV) Christ desires his church to be a close-knit family! He desires us to be unified. I suspect many of us underestimate how much we need one another, how much we crave contact, how much we hunger for true Christian fellowship.

HIS SECOND PRAYER IS FOR OUR UNITY WITH GOD. He prays to the Father "that they may also be in us...." There is more than a horizontal plane to the church. There is also a vertical plane. That's what separates us from the average social club. We are here to get in touch with each other, but we are also here to get in touch with God.

An illustration may help: During a frightful storm in the Georgian Bay of Canada years ago, a ship was wrecked. Many perished. The mate, with six strong men and one timid girl, escaped in a boat, but the waves were high and the craft turned over and over until, one by one the strong men lost their hold and disappeared beneath the angry billows.

The mate, however, lashed the girl to the boat, and thus she drifted to the shore where she was found, safe and unharmed. When the stalwart men went down with shrieks of despair, she alone was saved. She didn't escape by her skill or wisdom. She escaped because she was fastened firmly to that which would not sink.

Here in this house of worship we fasten ourselves firmly to that which will not sink. We find it in our unity with one another, but even more so, in our unity with God.

To this I offer my own affirmation and pastoral guidance. Amen and blessing to everyone.

*-Pastor Rayl*



## SUMMER SCHEDULE REMINDER

Beginning on May 25<sup>th</sup> we returned to our summer schedule of one service at 9:00 am, running through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Both Sunday School and Adult Bible Study are dismissed for summer. We'll have communion each Sunday unless there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

**MEMORIALS**

*As of May 25, 2025*

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of **Dick Crouse** by Gene Hagedorn.

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Gene Hagedorn.

**CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **Dick Crouse** by Margaret Witt, Eileen Young, Jane Neal, Betty TenEyck, Bob & Sherrie Haar, Ruth Cummerow, Kevin & Carol Abbey, Elaine Gladieux & Kathy, Dennis & Karensue Kelly, Dennis & Lisa Pavley, Carl Moore & Sandy Thompson, Mary Mortamore, Mark & Deb Ackerman, John & Karen Rowley, Bob Giaimo, Russ & Chris Hunsaker, Robert & Darlene Cummerow, Louise Diersch, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Walt & Darlene Metzger, Louise Diersch.

In memory of **Mark Kieswetter** by Walt & Darlene Metzger.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

In memory of **Dick Crouse** by Penny DeWitt, David & Beth Hodges, Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Chuck & Andra Bell, Kevin & Kim Kwiatkowski, Mike & Donna Winslow, Marge Bollinger, Bill & Donna Nelson, Gloria Ross, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Darlene Lorenzen, Fred & Tenesha Schmidt, Lisa & Troy Anderson, Janet & Tom Eppard, Esther Bell, Tom & Shelley Garrett, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Scott & Brenda Chambers, Karen Frey, Bill & Terri Hamilton, Larry & Darlene Paul.

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by James Cousino.

In memory of **Mark Kieswetter** by Bill & Terri Hamilton.

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Carol & Kevin Abbey, Penny DeWitt.

**MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of **Dick Crouse** by M/M Richard Haar.

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Carol & Dick Haar, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Elizabeth

Wyckoff, Deborah Paven, Cynthia Sugerik, The Rebecca Circle, Jeff & Deb Ladd, Tom & Janet Eppard, Mark & Deb Ackerman, Lisa & Troy Anderson, Thelma Boos, Derek & Heidi Meyer, Kevin & Kristie Ruedy, Lisa Sattler, Elaine Gladieux, Dennis & Karensue Kelley, Debra Lofquist, Russ & Chris Hunsaker, Becky Hraborvsky, Larry & Darlene Paul, Eric & Cindy Johnson, Marge Bollinger, Darryn Goulet, Ottawa Products Co., Inc., Charles & Sue Baker, Debbie & Jeff Eversman, Rose & Bernie Wineland, Virgie Grossjean, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Susan Klawitter, Fowler Family.

In memory of **Bruce Wohlgamuth** by Elaine Gladieux.

**DAY SCHOOL**

In memory **Dick Crouse** by Luann Spoerl.

**Personal Needs Pantry**

In memory of **Dick Crouse** by Donna Koester.

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Donna Koester.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

In memory of **Dick Crouse** by Bill & Terri Hamilton, Larry & Darlene Paul.

In memory of **Mark Kieswetter** by Bill & Terri Hamilton.

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Carol & Kevin Abbey, Penny DeWitt.

**DEBT FUND**

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Mike & Donna Winslow.

**QUILTERS**

In memory of **Sue Moszkowicz** by Jean Garey, Betty TenEyck, Bob & Sherrie Haar, Louise Diersch, Janet Morrison.

**REMINDER!**

There will be NO Chapel Communion this Summer.



## ELDERS SCHEDULE

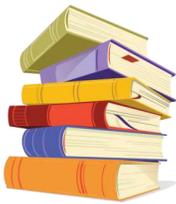
Remember, we only have one service at 9:00 am in the summer.

### *JUNE ELDERS*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Ruedy, Mike Winslow
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ted Hagedorn, Jeff Smith
- 15<sup>th</sup> Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy
- 29<sup>th</sup> Dick Haar, John Roth

### *JULY ELDERS*

- 6<sup>h</sup> Kevin Rudy, Mike Winslow
- 13<sup>th</sup> Bill Nelson, Matt Miller
- 20<sup>th</sup> Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ted Hagedorn, Jeff Smith



### SUMMER READING NEEDS?

Did you know we have a 'free-to-you' resource of Christian reading material in our church lounge? This includes fiction, non-fiction, devotionals, and even movies. We currently are in the process of refreshing our library located in the church lounge. We have a wealth of books available for you to borrow and we have recently added some new titles! Our library uses a card checkout system, and the instructions for borrowing are located on the shelf, along with the new titles available for ease of viewing. Once you sign a book out, we just ask that you return it within one month (or preferably two weeks) so others may enjoy it as well. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Emily Kruse (419-654-2842).

### **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.

## WELCA NEWS

The Board met on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, in the lounge. Only board members were present.

The Card Party brought in over \$2200. The Personal Needs Pantry will receive a check for \$1105. Thank you Jane and Emily for a beautiful day. The food was good as usual! This may be our last Card Party. Jane and Emily have retired from putting the Card Party together each year. We are looking for someone to take over as Chair and Co-Chairman for next year. Please let Sue Ann Rogers know if you are interested. We would like to see this continue as this is a fundraiser for WELCA.

Our next fundraiser for WELCA will be the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm. Half of the proceeds will then go to maintenance costs for the church. Spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, cookie, water and coffee. Tickets will go on sale in September. Carry-out or Dine in. So, put the Spaghetti Dinner on your Calendar!

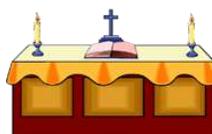
We will also be selling some of our roasters that have been up in the Attic. The cost will be \$25.00 each. If you are interested, please let Sue Ann Rogers know. The board will make sure all roaster are working, cleaned, and all the plug are in the proper roaster.

The board will not be meeting in the Summer, so, our next meeting will be August 19<sup>th</sup> in the lounge. All women of First St. John are invited to come to give there input or ideas you may have.

Have a great Summer! Be safe and may our Lord guide you in everything you and your family will do.

Have a great Summer!

— President, Sue Ann Rogers



### **ALTAR GUILD**

Altar Guild will not meet this Summer. Our next meeting will be in the fall.



## TOLEDO MUD HENS NIGHT

It's time to play ball! Here are the details for the church group outing to the Toledo Mud Hens baseball game at Fifth Third Field in downtown Toledo. Tickets are \$14.00 a piece. The date is Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. with fireworks afterward. We have reserved 25 tickets. The Muddy Shuttle leaves at approximately 6:15 from the Starr Elementary parking lot. Cost is \$3.00 both ways. Parking downtown is \$10.00 and \$20.00. Remember Fifth Third Field is cashless. Only credit and debit cards are accepted for concessions. Reservations must be made by June 20<sup>th</sup>. Advance ticket money is due by July 20<sup>th</sup>. Make checks out to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Toledo Mud Hens tickets on the memo line. To reserve tickets please call the church office or Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Remember we only have 25 tickets available. Thanks and see you at the game!!!!

## WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE



As a reminder, please try to submit all weekly bulletin announcements no later than **Wednesday** each week for the upcoming Sunday.



## FALL REGISTRATION

Another school year has come and gone. We are so blessed to be a part of our student's lives and hope that the love they have for Jesus and the love they get from the staff follows them throughout their lives. Right after Memorial Day we are heading right into the summer program. Some of our classes are full, but there are still some spaces depending on the week.

Registration for the 2025/2026 school year is going well. We are looking forward to another great year. If you know anyone who is interested, registration is still open but some of the classes are beginning to fill up.

Forms can be found on the school's website at [www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org) Children must be at least 3 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. If you have questions, please call Andrea Buckley at 419-691-6480.

## SUMMER MEETINGS FOR CIRCLE MEMBERS

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am at Mancino's in Northwood.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in the lounge.

**MIRIAM CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> @ American Table on Wheeling St in Oregon.

### **HANNAH CIRCLE**

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



## JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL IS DISMISSED FOR THE SUMMER!

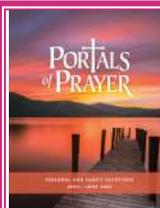
Enjoy your summer and we look forward to being back with you soon! If you use Facebook, now you can keep up with the latest news for our JAM Sunday School. In your Facebook search bar, key in @FSJJesusAndMe Remember to both "Follow" and "Like" the page.

## ORDERING ALTAR FLOWERS



If you would like to place flowers on the altar to honor or remember a loved one, you can use the red sign up book under the main bulletin board in the Narthex (lobby). Just find the Sunday you'd like and jot down the needed information.

Flower vases are \$15 each; you can use an envelope out of the book for payment. Either place it in the small box on the wall next to the bulletin board, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. We need at least two vases each week. If no one signs up, the Altar Guild has to buy the flowers themselves and, unfortunately, they have limited funds. Thanks for your help!



## PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for July through September will be ready for pick up in mid- June. You can find them in the lounge, the Narthex (lobby), the caddy outside the choir loft, or in the church office.



**GRADUATE  
RECOGNITION  
SUNDAY  
June 15, 2025**

We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF GRADUATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADUATED FROM

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DAVID WINSLOW  
MEMORIAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**



This four-man scrambles will be held on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Eagles Landing Golf Club with a shotgun start at 8am. The cost will be \$80 or \$320 for a foursome which includes a bucket of balls for practice, hot dog/drink at the turn and luncheon. Get your team signed up today! We are also in need of \$100 hole sponsors. Call Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or the church office, 419-691-7222.

*\*All proceeds go to the Winslow Scholarship Fund Scholarships for graduates of First St. John.\**



**MEMORIAL DAY  
CELEBRATION**

A Memorial Day ceremony took place on Monday, May 26<sup>h</sup> at 8:30 am in the church, followed by a veterans' service in the church cemetery with members of Dunberger Post and the Auxiliary. There were 25 in attendance to help honor the 106 service men and women in our cemetery. Thank you to all who attended, and also all who helped place flags in the cemetery earlier in the week!

**FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am you are invited to meet at the American Table Restaurant on Wheeling St in Oregon for breakfast and fellowship! We had 21 in attendance in May but there is room for more so please plan to join us! In July, we will meet on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at American Table as well. Hope to see everyone there!

**AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE — JULY 21<sup>st</sup>**

**SUMMER EVENTS AND INFO!**

As this is a combined newsletter for June and July for the summer, if you have new events or info that need to be shared, please send Jennifer an email in the office (office@firststjohn.com) so they can be included in the weekly announcements or emailed



**PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES**  
(As of 5/29/25)



**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:*

- Family of Nancy Bell
- Family of Derek Besgrove
- Peggy Burke
- Debra Henninger
- Family of Sue Moszkowicz
- Mary Ellen Miller
- Marilyn Ulrich
- Family of Dave Wilbarger Sr.
- Jeff Wilbarger
- LeAnn Winslow

**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:*

- Deb Ackerman
- Bennett
- Elizabeth Bland
- Karen Bless
- Amy Brumley
- Debbie Campbell
- Brenda Chambers
- Patrick Cleough
- Marjorie Counterman
- Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
- Doris
- Ann Dudics
- Duke
- Norman Eck
- Isaac Evans
- Brian Everett
- Janet Fern
- Joe Frobase
- Jody
- James Goorman
- Grace Harris Greenbank
- Bob Hecklinger
- Holly Henneman
- Gary Henningsen
- Katrin Howard
- Kathy Johnson
- Linda Joshi
- Kaitlyn
- Helen K.
- Sharon Kassay

- Cindy Knavel
- Tom Kohn
- Marc LeDuc
- Diana McGovern
- Bonnie Meier
- Patty Meyer
- Deborah Miller
- Donna Miller
- Chad Milner
- Janet Mooney
- Mary Bell Moore
- Karen Morrison
- Logan Murphy
- Bill Nelson
- Teresa Nye
- Pam Pirolli
- Janet Quiroga
- John Ranchan
- Sherry Reamsnyder
- Steven Riegler
- Rhonda
- Sandra
- Laura Scherer
- Bill Shedron
- Mary Alice Sheehan
- Shelley Sherman
- Connie Singlar
- James Spenthoff
- Julie Swanson
- Tom Tedrow
- Joyce Trowbridge
- Terry Vogalsang
- Deb Dusseau Warnke
- Katelyn Weirich
- Steve Welling
- Jeff Wilbarger
- Jean Wilson
- John Yard
- Eileen Young
- Ruth Zasada
- 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

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

4-2-25 Melody Jo Finkbiner, born to *Katie (Johnson) Finkbiner, and Zach Finkbiner*

4-18-25 Graham Alan Tilton, born to *Amelia (Schwiefert) Tilton, and Chase Tilton*

### Baptisms

None.

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

5-4-2025 Bruce N. Wohlgamuth

## SUPPORT US THROUGH



## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

Did you know you can support First St. John just by shopping at Kroger!

This past quarter we earned \$82.80 in rewards donated to the church!

This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Kroger Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe or enter your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

1. Create or sign into your online rewards account on Kroger.com
2. Make sure your Kroger Reward Card account is attached to your online account.
3. Under the Kroger Community Rewards Screen, search for First St. John Lutheran, or enter the NPO # WM368.
4. Select the organization and click 'Save'. You are all set! The selected organization will now show on the Kroger Community Reward Page!



## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS - JUNE & JULY

June's focus items are laundry soap and fabric softener. For July, it will be body lotion. 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 board.

## MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

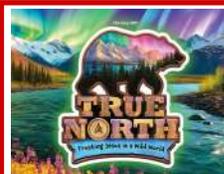
The ministry outreach for June/July will be the **Lutheran Disaster Response** which shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Special green envelopes will be in the pews for you to donate.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY:

It's hard to believe but it has been two years since I began to serve you as your church secretary! It must be true that time flies when you are having fun! Thank you so much for allowing me the chance to serve First St. John, and also for all the kindness, grace, and patience everyone has extended to me. Believe it or not, I am still learning every day as new things arise. I am very thankful to many of you who continue to make me and my family feel at home! I truly appreciate you!

~Jennifer Hess



## YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

**Vacation Bible School:** July 14<sup>th</sup>—July 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:30 each night, a light dinner is available at 5:15pm.. See page 4 for detailed VBS information. We will be in need of volunteers each night to help run stations and other activities. Great for teens and adults who want to serve! We will hold volunteer meetings on June 9th and June 23rd at 5:30pm in the lounge if you are interested, please contact Jennifer at 419-691-7222.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR VBS!

Please help us gather items needed for our upcoming Vacation Bible School in July! It takes a lot to feed and also provide snacks and crafts so any help is appreciated! This year we have created an online Amazon Wishlist of items needed as well as a sign up list in the lounge (which will be placed in the coming weeks!) The link to the Amazon wishlist is:

<https://tinyurl.com/vuxrb5mh>

OR you can email Jennifer in the church office ([office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)) and she can send you a clickable link! Great part is it can be sent directly to the church!