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# ◆ First St. John Journal ◆

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Volume 38, Issue 9

September 2025

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**J**ust as there are physical hungers, there also are spiritual hungers. When our bodies are without food, we become weak and disoriented. And when our spirits aren't fed, our lives become confused and our moral strength falters.

A wise man said that there is a God-sized vacuum in each of us. That's why we feel empty until Christ comes to live in us. Indeed, we only find real life when the Life of Christ is allowed to pervade our lives. As we internalize Christ, as we receive Holy Communion, we find real, meaningful life, the life that truly fulfills us.

Have you ever noticed the food left on a McDonald's tray ... Big Macs, french fries, half-eaten fish sandwiches. We Americans are obsessed with food. Put us at a buffet and they have to put up signs to make sure we don't stock up for the week. Along with our obsession with food is our obsession with losing weight. We eat too much of the wrong thing, then have to spend thousands of dollars on special diets to take off the excess pounds.

Oh, that we were this obsessed with spiritual food! You'd think many of us are on a spiritual diet the way we seem to take in just enough nourishment to survive. But most of us would not say we are spiritually filled. Jesus Christ promises to give us bread and drink, and ties it into our observances of the sacrament of holy communion ... the most notable place in our corporate worship life where we focus on the power of Christ to satisfy our hungering and thirsting.

Now for a little (very little) humor. Mama, don't men ever go to Heaven?" asked a small boy.

His mother answered, "Of course they do! What makes you ask?"

"Because I never saw any pictures of angels with whiskers."

"Oh, that's because most men who go to Heaven get there by a close shave!

— Pastor Rayl



## RETURN TO FALL/WINTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

We will return to two services on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 am and 10:30 am. Please plan to join us on Sunday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at either service. The church nursery will resume during 2nd service starting September 14<sup>th</sup>. See the contents of the newsletter for more festivities happening on Sept 7th as well!

## FIRST & SECOND YEAR CATECHISM



It is time to organize a new Catechism Class. Pastor Rayl is inviting parents of kids in fifth through seventh grades to meet with him in the catechism classroom on either Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:45 AM and or on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in room 204, to talk about the possibilities for the class schedule. Please send your RSVP or questions to Pastor Rayl at email, [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com) or text, 567-395-0143. Hope to see you there.

## CHAPEL COMMUNION

Chapel communion begins again on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Note: The *second* Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm will be our regular schedule for Chapel Communion.



## CEMETERY CLEAN UP

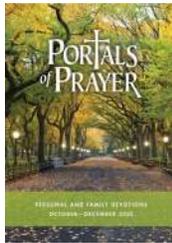
Fall clean up of the cemetery will be done on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. *Please* remove any decorative items from the gravestones that you wish to keep BEFORE the October 11<sup>th</sup> deadline so they are not taken down during the fall clean up day.

## ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
9/7	Ted Hagedorn Jeff Smith	Dick Haar John Roth
9/14	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar
9/21	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	Bill Nelson Matt Miller
9/28	Ted Hagedorn Jeff Smith	Dick Haar John Roth

## PORTALS OF PRAYER

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets in large or small print for October through December can be picked up in mid September. You can find these in the Narthex (lobby), lounge, or the small caddy by the choir loft.



## WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF WRAP-UP

Thanks to all who helped out or donated to our annual David Winslow Memorial Golf Scrambles outing, which was held August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We raised \$3372 for the Winslow Scholarship fund. We'll see everyone next year, the first Saturday in August!



## 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.



## BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP



We will not meet as originally planned in September, but instead will meet next on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at the American Table restaurant on Wheeling St in Oregon. **Please note the date change.** Afterwards, we will reconvene in Founder's Hall (gym) to set up for the spaghetti dinner and drive thru.

## WELCA SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER



The women of WELCA will be hosting a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30 pm. We will start selling tickets on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> during both services. Tickets will be \$10 for adults, and \$8 for children aged 5 or older. Children under 5 years old will be free. We will serve Spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, and a cookie or brownie. Dinners will be available for dine in or carryout. Carryout orders will be picked up in the lounge. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help fund the maintenance of our church.



## ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

## LESSON READERS NEEDED!

As the summer comes to a close, we are in need of weekly lesson readers when we return to two services starting in September. The lessons are sent to you prior to the Sunday you choose to read so you can review them ahead of time. 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.

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—SEPTEMBER 22nd**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## WELCA NEWS

Hello, and welcome to September!

The Board met on August 18<sup>th</sup> in the Lounge. Four members were present. We discussed a lot of events that will be coming up in the next 4 months.

First, we are having a Spaghetti Dinner on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30 pm. We will be selling tickets after both services starting September 14<sup>th</sup>. You can also purchase your tickets by calling the office. Tickets will be \$10.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for 5 and older, Children under 5yrs. old will be free. Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Toast, Cookie or Brownie will be served. Dine in or carry out. Carry out orders will be picked up in the Lounge. Half of the Proceeds will go to Project Management for maintenance.

Second, Our Family Christmas "Lunch" will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> right after second service in the Fellowship Hall (gym). 12 pm till 2-2:30 pm. We will also have our basket auction again this year. All Circles, Altar Guild, Bells, Sunday School, and Choir hopefully will donate a basket or an item. More details to follow.

Thirdly, We are still looking for a group of ladies to take the Card Party fundraiser over. Emily and Jane are retiring from handling it. This was our big fundraiser for WELCA. Please contact Sue Ann Rogers at 419-280-1310. Please think it over, and consider helping. We will form a committee to help make this a success.

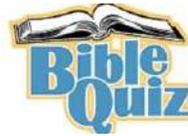
Our next meeting will be Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in the lounge at 6:30 pm. All women of the church are invited to come. We would love your input. See you September 15th!!

— Sue Ann Rogers, President

## DARTBALL STARTS SOON!



Dartball season is almost upon us. Teams meet every other Monday night starting on September 29<sup>th</sup> in the church gym. On Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have a dartball practice up in Founders Hall (gym) before the season starts at 7pm, so come check it out! (For more information call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. It is easy, fun and fellowship. No experience required.



## ALL-AMERICAN BIBLE QUIZ

Get ready for the third annual All-American Bible Quiz on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 a.m. in the lounge. Prizes for first and second place. Test your Old Testament knowledge! All are welcome!



### FIRST ST. JOHN BELL CHOIR

Our fabulous Bell Choir is looking for people to join us starting Sept. 15<sup>h</sup> in the church at 5:30 pm. We will give you instructions on how to hold and ring the bell. Come and give it a try! Contact Cheri Sergent for any questions at (419) 410-3572.

WELCA and the Day School are teaming up to bring back a old classic! We are putting together a "Best of the Best Family Recipe Cook Book". The proceeds will benefit both groups. Please go through your favorite recipes and share a few of your best for the book. You can either turn them into Chris Hunsaker , the church office or email them to [fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com](mailto:fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com). Be sure to include your name and the category that they would belong in. We can't wait to assemble the best recipes from our church family and our community.

Please turn in recipes by September 21st

## **MEMORIALS (as of 8/30/25)**

### **PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY**

In memory of **Kim Zeisler** by anonymous.

### **ELEVATOR FUND**

In memory of **Bruce Wohlgamuth** by Eileen Young.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC FUND**

In memory of **Lola Crouse** by Penny DeWitt.

### **CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **Lola Crouse** by John & Karen Rowley, Bill & Terri Hamilton, Darlene & Robert Cummerow, and Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### **DAYSCHOOL**

In memory of **Lola Crouse** LuAnn Spoerl.

### **DEBT FUND**

In memory of **Lola Crouse** by Russ & Chris Hunsaker.

### **CURRENT FUND**

In memory of **Lola Crouse** by Dave & Phyllis Brumower, Cindy & Eric Johnson, Jerry & Ginny Nissen, Betty TenEyck, Jane Neal, Karen Fry, Chuck & Betty Hyre, Larry & Darlene Paul, Karensue & Denny Kelley, Marge Bollinger, Deb Lofquist, Tom & Janet Eppard, M/M Keith Kwiatkowski, Terry & Jane Schuetz, Jim & Dianne Schumaker, Esther Bell.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

## ***BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS***

On Rally Day, September 7<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 am service, children are invited to bring their school backpacks to the front of the sanctuary. Pastor Rayl will bless the backpacks and the students who will use them.



## **TEACHER INSTALLATION**

As part of our Rally Day celebration on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, we will install both the Sunday School and Day School teachers for the new school year.

## **WOMEN'S CIRCLES IN SEPTEMBER**

### **RUTH CIRCLE NEWS**

The Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 am** in the lounge.

### **MIRIAM CIRCLE**

The Miriam Circle will meet **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am** in the lounge. See you then!

### **REBECCA CIRCLE NEWS**

The Rebecca Circle will meet **Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am** in the lounge.

### **HANNAH CIRCLE NEWS**

The Hannah Circle will meet on **Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** at Debbie Smith's home.



## **RALLY DAY CELEBRATION!**

Make sure you come on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** for our annual Rally Day!

During the second service, the children of the Day School will be singing. We also will install and pray for the Day School and Sunday School teachers. Don't forget to also bring your backpacks to church as Pastor Rayl will bless them and the students who will use them. This is a great way to start off the new school year!

After the 2nd service, the Sunday School board we will provide refreshments, and info on the upcoming Sunday School year set to start on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Beginning Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, our Adult Sunday School group will resume. Join us every Sunday morning at 9:15 am in the lounge. We will explore the Old Testament. Please join us every Sunday for coffee, and donuts and good biblical conversation and learning. See or call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 for more info.

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

None.

### Baptisms

8-17-25 Evelyn Julia Nelson born to Ryan and Rachel (Cola) Nelson.

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

8-12-25 Lola Crouse  
8-30-25 James Fox

### Transfers to/from First St. John

None.



## JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSAL!

The choir is off to a great start! If you have ever considered joining the choir this is a great time to check it out! The next practice will be on Wednesday, September 10th at 6pm. Our new choir director, Jo-Anne Chrysochoos is eager to meet you and hopes you will join her! Come make a joyful noise to the Lord!

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study, led by Pastor Rayl, will resume on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> in the lounge. They will meet every Thursday at 11am. The subject of the study will be determined by the class the first meeting. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Rayl (pastor1@firststjohn.com) or by calling the church office: 419-691-7222.

## MISSION SUNDAY

It is time once again for Mission Sunday. Next month on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, please bring items for the Personal Needs Pantry, and non-perishable food items for Feed Your Neighbor (no glass jars please). Let's fill up the grocery carts like we did last year! God's Love; Our Hands.

## HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

If you or a loved one would like a homebound communion visit, please call the church office. Bob Haar is temporarily communing the homebound at their request, and he will call you to set up an appointment.

## *A Back-to-School Prayer for Students and Teachers*

*Heavenly Father, You give us the gift of learning. Guide and direct all teachers who are put in authority of teaching children, and adults. May they reflect Your wisdom and compassion. Be with those who are learning. Open their hearts to learn and grow in true wisdom. Give them discernment and keep them safe from the evil one, who seeks to mislead them.*

*Gracious Lord, how blessed we are to have compassionate and caring teachers in our lives. They are a gift, as You continue to fill them with grace and truth. Bless them, O Lord, especially when the hours get long and their patience thin. Restore to them the blessed vision of the greater purposes to which You call them: to glorify You and to bless those whom they serve. Through the name of Jesus, our great teacher. Amen.*

*[Portals of Prayer—For Personal And Family Devotions, July-September, Page 115.]*



First St. John Lutheran  
day school

## **MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH**

### **First St. John Day School Scholarship Fund**

Our monthly ministry outreach for September will be our very own, First St John Day School scholarship fund!

FSJ Lutheran Day School & Child Care Center is a ministry of First St. John Lutheran Church. In cooperation with the congregation and community families, we strive to prepare our students for the academic, social, intellectual, and spiritual challenges they will face as they grow and mature. We recognize that it is a responsibility and a privilege to be entrusted by God and our school families to help guide and develop the character of each student. We believe that each child was born with a unique gift from God and that his/her needs should be met at his/her level of development. The scholarship fund helps those in need of assistance with school costs.

*To support this effort, please place your check in the yellow envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office at 2471 Seaman St, Toledo, OH 43605. You can also drop off a donation to Jennifer in the church office.*

## ***First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 8-28-25)***

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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:

Betty Anderson  
Peggy Burke  
Family of Lola Crouse  
Family of Jim Fox  
Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Mary Ellen Miller  
Rita Riegle  
Gloria Ross  
Paige Smith  
Susan Smith  
Tiffany  
Levi Wallace  
Joyce Yard

### **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  
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 Riegle  
Rhonda  
Sandra  
Laura Scherer  
Bill Shedron  
Mary Alice Sheehan  
Shelley Sherman  
Connie Singlar  
James Spenthoff  
Julie Swanson  
Tom Tedrow  
Joyce Trowbridge  
Terry Vogalsang  
Deb Duseau Warnke  
Katelyn Weirich  
Steve Welling  
Jeff Wilbarger  
Jean Wilson  
LeAnn Winslow  
John Yard  
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

## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Our focus item for September is adult and baby shampoo (no conditioners). Please place your items in the pull-out drawer to the left of the Feed Your Neighbor bin in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or in the bright green bin in the lounge. Thank you for supporting this ministry! *Remember, no travel or sample size items—families will need these items to last an entire month.*



## 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
- \* Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months

## CANDY CRAWL

We will once again be participating in the annual community Candy Crawl that will take place on Sunday October, 19th from 4-6pm. This event takes place yearly and is a wonderful way to connect with our community. This year we were able to purchase the candy needed through a Thrivent grant. However, we ask that you donate candy if possible for the Day School Halloween event! Also, make sure to bring your kids to get candy at FSJ and around the community!



## 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. Thanks for your help!

## NURSERY HELP NEEDED

The church nursery will open up again on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> during the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. We are looking for people who would be interested on serving one Sunday a month during the 10:30 am service. It does require a back ground check that can be reimbursed. If interested please contact Darlene Paul or the church office (419-691-7222).

## School Calendar 2025/2026

August 15, 2025 Meet the Teacher Night

August 18, 2025– First Day of School

September 1, 2025– Labor Day No School

November 26-28, 2025– Thanksgiving Break No School

December 22, 2025-January 4, 2026 Christmas Break No School

January 19, 2026 MLK Day No School

January 13 & 14, 2026 Parent Teacher Conferences  
(No classes; extended care still available)

February 16, 2026– President's Day No School

March 30– April 6th, 2026– Spring Break No School

April TBA Teacher Work Day No School

May 22, 2026– Last Day of School



# DAY SCHOOL NEWS



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11

School has started again and we are excited for another great year. We are so happy to announce that the Day School students will be singing for Rally Day on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We are so honored to be a mission of the First St. John congregation and I hope that we will continue to spread God’s word to as many young children as we can. At this point we are looking forward to being able to include families and the congregation in the school again. I know that we will have some fundraising opportunities coming up as well as more performances, and just every day school activities. If you would like to help or would like to share your talents, please contact the school office. We would love to have you share in spreading God’s word. WELCA and the Day School are teaming up to bring back an old classic! We are putting together a “Best of the Best Family Recipe Cook Book”. The proceeds will benefit both groups. Please go through your favorite recipes and share a few of your best for the book. You can either turn them into Chris Hunsaker, the church office or email them to

[fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com](mailto:fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com). There is also a box at the back of the church to place your recipes. Be sure to include your name and the category that they would belong in. We can’t wait to assemble the best recipes from our church family and our community.

The Day School is also planning a Halloween Carnival fundraiser for the preschool and Sunday School families. We need your help. We would love for church members to sponsor a table in the gym for the event. The tables will need to be decorated with a theme similar to a trunk or treat with candy for approximately 100 children. Feel free to get into the spirit and dress up! (Nothing too scary please) A small easy activity for the kids is a bonus! There will also be a bake sale during the event. If you are interested please complete the form below and either return it to the box at the back of the church, the church office or email it to [fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com](mailto:fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com).

Thank you for your help!

— Andrea Buckley



I would like to help with the Halloween fundraiser October 19, 2025 from 12:00-4:30.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to host a table and candy (the space is approx. 8’x4’)

\_\_\_\_ I can donate a baked good for the bake sale

