



First St. John Journal



Volume 39, Issue 5

May, 2026

The Easter story doesn't end on Easter Sunday; it just begins! That's why the church calendar speaks of the second, third, and fourth -- and continuing -- for seven Sundays of Easter. Because Easter isn't a day to celebrate and forget; it is a day that has changed everything. And we are its witnesses.

That's why Jesus told his followers that they must get out and deliver the good news. They must tell people, he said, to repent, and to accept the forgiveness that God is offering. And this means everybody. Easter touches *everybody in every way*, because all of us need to repent, all of us need to be forgiven by God, and all of us need the eternal life that the Easter event promises us. We never live through a day that we don't need Easter, because there's never a day that we don't need to be forgiven, don't need to repent, don't need to know that there is more to us and more to life than we have now. We need to know that we are eternal creatures, and that by God's grace and forgiveness we can enter into eternal life in Christ, in this life, and in the world to come.

Before Easter, the world was always saying *No*. It said No to life, to hope, to our best dreams. But on Easter, *God* said *Yes*. It is a YES that has now been ringing through our world for more than 2,000 years, and nothing has been able to stop it. War has tried, dictators have tried, hate and hell have tried, but God's YES in Easter keeps ringing out, clear and strong.

One of the great preachers of the 20th century, Dr. Roy L. Smith, loved to recall a story from some years earlier. He wrote out the story not long before his own death. Dr. Smith said that several years before, a Chicago art store displayed a prominent artist's portrayal of the Crucifixion. A businessman who was looking at the painting sensed that someone had come alongside. It was a boy, perhaps 10 or 11 years old, looking like he was quite at home on the street. The businessman touched him on the

shoulder. "Sonny," he said, "what does that picture mean?"

The boy didn't see the question as adults might, as a passing courtesy. He replied quickly, "Don'cha know? That there man is Jesus, and them others is Roman soldiers, and the woman that's crying, that's his mother. They killed him."

As the boy took one more look, the businessman started on his way. The boy went running after him. "Mister," he said, as he caught up with the man, "I forgot to tell yuh: He rose again."

That makes all the difference. And that's the difference you and I need to tell. We're the witnesses who are supposed to let the whole world know that something wonderful has happened; something eternally wonderful, for every single human being. We have no right to keep such good news to ourselves. We need to get the word out!

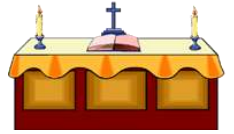
— Pastor Rayl



ELDERS FOR MAY

3 rd	8:00 am Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	10:30 am Bill Nelson Matt Miller
10 th	Ted Hagedorn Jeff Smith	Sherrie Haar Bob Haar
17 th	Bill Nelson Matt Miller	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow
24 th	9:00 am Bill Nelson Matt Miller	
31 st	9:00 am Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	

ALTAR GUILD MEETING



Our next Altar Guild meeting will be on Monday, May 4th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.



Join us on Saturday, May 23rd as we honor our veterans in the cemetery by placing American flags in front of their gravestones at 10:00 am. Help is needed as we have over 100 flags to place. Any questions, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

SUMMER WORSHIP

Our summer worship schedule changes to one service at 9:00 am starting May 24th and running through September 6th.



CIRCLE NEWS

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet Saturday, May 2nd @ 11:30 am in the lounge.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, May 5th @ 11:30 @ Spaghetti Warehouse.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, May 6th @ 9:30 am in the lounge.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not be meeting in May.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
May 20th

CHAPEL COMMUNION NOTICE

Our next Chapel Communion will be held on Sunday, May 10th at 2:00 pm in our chapel which is located on the second floor of the educational building. All our welcome to come!

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



Join us on Monday, May 25th for a brief Memorial Day Service of Remembrance. A Memorial Service honoring fallen veterans will take place outside in the back parking lot, near the cemetery at approximately 8:30 a.m. Veterans and the Veterans Auxiliary will be conducting the service.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by calling (419-691-7222), or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or emailing us at: office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMORIALS

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Eileen Young** by Gene Hagedorn.

IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of **Eileen Young** by Penny DeWitt.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of **Eileen Young** by Bill & Cathy Caldwell, Winona Wohlgamuth.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Ray Cousino** by M/M William Nelson.

In memory of **Eileen Young** by Ruth Cummerow, Martha Hecklinger, Ruth Circle, Janet Schacht, Esther Bell.

QUILTERS

In memory of **Eileen Young** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

WELCA

In memory of **Eileen Young** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

In memory of **Betty Anderson** by Bob & Sherrie Harr.



TOLEDO MUD HENS

It's time to play ball! The church family outing at the Toledo Mud Hen baseball game is rapidly approaching. Here are the details; the date is Sunday, May 31st at 2:00 pm. Gates open at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$11.00 a piece. Remember that this is the weekend AFTER Memorial Day. The deadline to give Bob Haar ticket money is Sunday, May 3rd. We have up to 30 tickets available. Also, remember that Fifth Third Field only accepts credit cards for food and drink payments. Also, there is no Muddy shuttles on Sunday. Any questions please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Vacation Bible School will be **July 20th to 23rd** from 6:00-8:30 pm each night. We also will have dinner from 5:15-5:45 pm. Volunteers are needed for kitchen help, station leaders, and group leaders, as well as people to help set up and tear down. If you would like to help, please contact the church office or one of the JAM Sunday School teachers.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 9th at 8:30 am at American Table Restaurant on Wheeling St. in Oregon. Please join us!



MOVIE NIGHT

It is time for our next Movie Night on Sunday, May 3rd. The movie's name is "Faith of Angels". It is based on a true story and rated one of the best faith-based movies of 2024. There will be a light dinner at 5:30 pm. The menu will be hot chicken sandwiches (with cheese slice on top), dill pickle slice, Costco cookies, homemade applesauce, popcorn, snacks, pop, & water. The movie will start around 6:15PM. Please plan to join us and bring a comfy chair. This movie is great entertainment for all, come and see what "faith can accomplish".

WINSLOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The winners of the 2025-2026 Winslow Scholarship are Gradon Goa and Natalie Miller! Gradon will be attending the University of Toledo to major in engineering with a focus on aerospace engineering. Natalie will be attending the University of Toledo to major in health sciences on a pre-physical therapy track. Please join us in congratulating Gradon and Natalie. They will be highlighted in the near future in the Press and also on graduation Sunday on June 14th.

MAY'S MINISTRY OUTREACH

The May monthly ministry outreach is Helping Hands of St. Louis. Since 1982, Helping Hands of St. Louis has served more than 1.5 million meals to people in need. An average of 250 meals are now served each day, Monday through Friday, through the generosity of local community members and businesses and through the dedication of our volunteer teams. If you would like to help support their efforts, please deposit cash or a check made out to First St John Lutheran with "Helping Hands of St. Louis" in the memo line in the pink envelopes in the pews or place them in the offering plate.



WELCA NEWS

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms! The board met on Monday April 20st in the lounge. Six members were present. Bob Kinsey came to our meeting to talk about the Outreach Community Program we are planning on starting in our church. A Prayer Book was put together as a start.

Our next fundraiser will be the Mother's Day/Spring Plant Fundraiser with Knitz Greenhouse. All you have to do is at the time of paying for your plant purchase(s) is just tell the cashier this order is towards the First St. John Church fundraiser. We will receive 15% of all our purchases.

It's simple and WELCA appreciates all of your support on this fundraiser as it helps us support the many-many charities and church donations that we fund. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Chris Hunsaker at 419-376-7363.

Our next meeting is Monday, May 18th. All women of the church are invited. We'd love to have your input.

~ Sue Ann Rogers

WELCA MOTHER'S DAY/ SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER

APRIL 26 – MAY 22, 2026
KNITZ GREENHOUSE
8865 ARQUETTE ROAD



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY June 14, 2026



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 14th. 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 email this page to office@firststjohn.com by Monday, June 8th.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.)

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE _____

First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 5/1/26)

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:

Pam Chronberger
 Family of Deborah Kidwell
 Family of Karen Bless
 Karen Herrera
 Family of Jim Dukeshire
 Family of Eileen Young
 Family of Raymond Cousino
 Owen Baker
 Ron Robeson
 Family of Betty Anderson

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:

Peggy Burke
 Marjorie Counterman
 Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
 Bob Hecklinger
 Holly Henneman
 Gary Henningsen
 John Rowley
 Mary Ellen Miller
 Diana McGovern
 Connie Singlar
 Steve Welling
 Raetta Zeisler
 Rita Riegle
 Danielle Riegle

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
 Darlene Lorenzen 419-351-6293
 Gloria Ross 419-836-7166
 Church Office 419-691-7222

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATES

We recently did a clean up of the prayer chain. Names that were given with no updates for quite awhile were removed. Please send an email to Jessica in the church office if you need to have any names added back to the list, or need to add new names. By default, names on the crisis list with no update will be moved to ongoing after one month, and then removed from ongoing after 3 months.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

We continue to collect for the Lutheran Social Services Pantry. As a reminder, they do not accept glass jars, but any canned or boxed non-perishables are welcome! Some major needs are canned meats (Tuna, Chicken, Spam), Canned Fruits or Vegetables, Canned Soups, or ravioli, Ramen, Crackers, Ketchup, mustard, Mayo and pasta. You can place any items in the pull out drawer in the Narthex, or tub in the lounge. Thanks for your generosity in helping our community!

WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE



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

TOLEDO LUTHERAN DARTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L
St. Lucas	29	13
St. Mark	28	14
Trinity	27	15
1st St. John #2	21	21
Prince of Peace	20	22
1st St. John #1	19	23
Messiah	12	30
St. Petri	12	30

Congratulations to St. Lucas Lutheran! They finished the season in first place!!

Have a great summer. See you in the Fall!



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe that this is the last month of the school year. 2025/2026 has been a great year and we are so thankful that we were able to have the entire year with full classes.

Beginning June 1st we look forward to our summer camp program. We had so much fun the last few summers, this summer should prove to be another great experience for kids ages 3-10. Enrollment is also going well for the 2026/2027 school year. We look forward to welcoming back our returning students and meeting new families.

I would like to thank the church members for supporting the Day School. You are all part of our mission and I pray that we can continue to spread God's love to children for many years to come.

— *Andrea Buckley*

TUESDAY @ 1 P.M. CONCERT SERIES

The following concerts will be presented this summer at First St. John Lutheran Church.



The first Mid-day Concert will take place on **Tuesday, June 2nd** FSJ Musician, **Dr. Anthony Pattin** will perform a solo piano recital. The program features music by the "3 B's of classical music". Other concert favorites will be featured as well as pieces with unusual titles.

On **June 30th** Toledo Symphony Orchestra Violinist, **David Dyer** will present a program of music for the violin as well as music for various recorders from the Baroque period. David has a Master's in Violin Performance (University of Michigan) and a Master's in Recorder from Oberlin Conservatory. He teaches Suzuki and Traditional, all levels, ages 3 to 80+! He will be assisted by Dr. Tony.

On **July 28th** Baritone and First St. John favorite, **Bradley Baker** will present the final concert of the summer. An internationally acclaimed Opera and Musical Theatre performer, he will present a diverse selection of audience favorites: hymns, gospel, spirituals, love songs and more. A prominent feature of this program will be a segment of his highly acclaimed "painting with Bradley" presentation. He is a well-known Artist/Performer, as well as a teacher of students striving to be performing artists. He is a soloist and choir member at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Toledo. He will be assisted by Dr. Tony. These recitals are free and open to the public. Please make plans to attend!

SUMMER DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for our summer camp is filling up quickly! Camp runs from June 1st through August 6th and is for kids ages 3 through 10 (Must be potty trained). Camp is from 9:00 am to noon for preschool ages and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for school age children. Extended care also is available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm for \$7.10 per hour. Each week has a special focus:

June 1-5:	Gettin' Dirty
June 8-12:	Moovin' and Groovin'
June 15-19	Mad Science
June 22-26:	Birds of a Feather
June 29-July 3:	Wild Wild West
July 6-10:	Cold Blooded Crew (reptiles & amphibians)
July 13-17:	Survivor Week
July 20-24:	Summerween (Halloween in July)
July 27-31:	Seussical Summer
August 3-7	Tropical Paradise

A one-time registration fee of \$50 is needed. Cost is \$106/week for children ages 3-5, and \$210/week for ages 5-10 (this does not include after care hours which is paid separately). The cost includes meals, fees, supplies, and activities.

DAVID WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Save the date for the 25th Annual Dave Winslow Memorial Golf Scramble on Saturday, August 1st at Eagles Landing with a shotgun start at 8am. The cost will be \$85 or \$340 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. This event each year helps to fund the Dave Winslow Scholarship. Call Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430 or the church office, 419-691-7222. *All proceeds go to the Winslow Scholarship*

COMMUNION CARDS



HOLY COMMUNION RECORD

Envelope no. _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Desire pastor to call I am a visitor

Home congregation _____

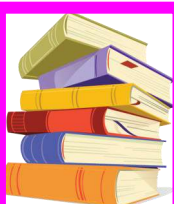
Address _____

Please return this card as a report of your Communion

Each year we file a report with the ELCA, and there's a question about the number of active members we have. One requirement for active membership is communion attendance, so that's why we ask you to fill out communion cards. Please consider signing a communion card if you have not done so in the past so we can report more accurately to the synod. You can write confirmed members of an entire family on one card. No address or envelope number is needed unless you've changed your address recently. Please list only confirmed members since the new secretary will not know who your children are. Thank you!

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

A finance meeting will be held on May 12th. The finance committee will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the finance room. This will give us a week to review prior month financial report and discuss any pending and future expenses prior to Council meeting.



CHURCH LIBRARY REFRESH

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. Over the next few months, we will continue to add new titles and organize the library. 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 Jessica in the church office at 419-691-7222 ahead of time to reserve them. Thank you.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES



Julie Moritz
20311 Pemberville Rd. Room 718
Pemberville, OH 43450

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY



May's focus item is men's and women's deodorant. *Please, no travel sizes* as products are supposed to last one month. You can deposit items in either the green bin in the lounge or the left pull-out bin in the Narthex under the main bulletin board. Thank you for your help. We are also have an urgent need for bars of soap and sanitary pads.



ORDERING ALTAR FLOWERS

If you'd like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone, the sign up sheets are in the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board. You can sign up for the Sunday you choose. 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. Can't make it to in-person worship? You can call the church office to request a date for flowers, and Jessica will sign up for you.

REMINDER

The last day of JAM Sunday School will be May 17th. We will resume in September.
Have a great summer!