



# First St. John Journal



Volume 25, Issue 12

December, 2012

**T**he Bible uses many names to describe Jesus and His mission on earth: Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, The Lamb of God, just to name three. But one name we don't see or hear very often is taken from Revelation 22:16: "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, *the bright morning star.*" Actually, Jesus is probably referring here to one of the earliest scripture passages about Himself -- we find it in Numbers 24:17: "A *star* shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall come out of Israel." But how is the "star" of Christmas truly such Good News? All throughout the Bible darkness is used as a metaphor for evil, for being in rebellion against God. And even today, that darkness and rebellion toward God lies in *each* of our hearts.

But into this dark, evil, and selfish world, the prophet in the book of Numbers promises hope to the people: "A star shall come out of Jacob."

But there's another connection! Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, recognized the "star" coming into the world in Luke 1:78-79: "Because of the tender mercy of our God . . . the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The Bright Morning Star has arrived in the Person of Jesus Christ. The evils of this dangerous, sinful world will not last forever-- Our Morning Star is coming! The shadows of sin and death will not last forever-- Our Morning Star is coming! Let us together prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus, "the root and the descendant of David, (and) the bright morning star!"

— Pastor Blohm

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



### Christmas Eve:

11:30 am	Chapel Service
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service

No Sunday School on December 23rd or December 30th. The church office will be closed on Mon., December 24th, 25th, and 31st. We begin our regular Sunday schedule on January 6.

## WHAT'S THIS ENVELOPE?

During Advent and Lent, we offer the opportunity for members to help fund our local benevolences. If you wish to participate, write a check, place it in the envelope, and either mail it back to the church or place it in the offering plate. If you receive the newsletter by email, envelopes will be in the church pews for this purpose. Thank you.

## 2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2013 will be in the lounge in December through the end of January. They will be on tables in alphabetical order. Envelopes are issued to confirmed and contributing members and, upon request, friends who worship with us.

If a husband and wife share offering envelopes, the designation "M/M" and the husband's name will appear on the box. (The computer allows only one name per number assigned.)

If you would like to receive envelopes or if there is a correction to your address or name, call the church office at 419-691-7222. *Reminder:* Please do not use your 2013 envelopes until January 6th. If you want a contribution included on your 2012 statement, you must turn it in to the office by Friday, December 28, 2012.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



### Births

11-5-12 *Zane Martin Warner*,  
born to Paul and Andrea  
(Schuffenecker) Warner

### Baptisms

10-28-12 *Mason Jay Braden*, born August 5,  
2012 to Jack and Kelly (Roberts)  
Braden. Sponsors are Kristina  
Newman and Kathy Facer

11-18-12 *Auriana Marie Bock*, born August  
31, 2009 to Robert Bock and  
Cynthia Garcia. Sponsors are Justin  
Bock and Hannah Osenbaugh

*Gunnar MacGregor Goa* and  
*Cooper MacKay Goa*, born  
September 29, 2012 to Grady and  
Kara (Wiener) Goa. Sponsors  
are Matthew Wiener and Kimberly  
Goa.

### Marriages

None

### Deaths

11-4-12 Harry A. Myrice

11-9-12 George M. Wagner

11-11-12 Larry A. Vogtsberger

### Transfers To / From First St. John:

None

## ALTAR GUILD NEWS



The last day to accept poinsettia orders is Sunday, December 2nd. Please have your order turned in to the church office by then, or you can order poinsettias in the Narthex after church on November 25th and December 2nd.

The Guild will meet on Monday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm in the lounge for their year-end meeting and Christmas dinner. All new members for 2013 are invited to join us.

## ATTN: CATECHISM STUDENTS

There will be no catechism on December 23rd or December 30th because of the holidays. We'll resume classes on January 6th.

## ELDERS FOR DECEMBER

	<u>7:45 am</u>	<u>10:15 am</u>
2nd	Tom Eppard Linda Erdmann	Eric Johnson Jim Swanson
9th	Mike Winslow Al Collins	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich
16th	Linda Yenrick Bill Nelson	Darold Henninger Kevin Ruedy
23rd	Eric Johnson Jim Swanson	Tom Eppard Linda Erdmann
24th	Christmas Eve — TBA	
30th	Jeff Smith Jason Blazeovich	Mike Winslow Al Collins

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 21st**

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for the office, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify us by faxing (419-691-7220), or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or email: office@firststjohn.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORIALS

### CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Louise and Jim Sommers.

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Martha Meyers, Elaine Gladieux, Paul & Vivian Kuhlman.

In memory of **Joyce Thompson** by Jim Harrell & the Martha Kuhn Family.

### CEMETERY FUND

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Ken & Joyce Villhauer, Carl & Janet Morrison.

In memory of **Nancy Ackerman** by Ernie & Marge Bollinger, Bill Fischhaber.

### ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Gene Hagedorn.

### HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

### ALTAR GUILD

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Penny DeWitt, Pastor & Mrs. Gerald Labuhn.

### DEBT RETIREMENT

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Jean DeWitt, Ruth Ziethlow.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In honor of **Gene & Ruth Price's** 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Fred & Wanda Rice.

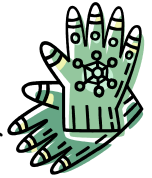
### J.A.M.

In memory of **Darrel Arnold** by M/M James Fox.

### QUILTERS

In memory of **Bob Webb** by Sue Moszkowicz.

## DEAR FIRST ST. JOHN CHURCH MEMBERS



Thank you so much for the donations of socks, hats, and gloves for our children at Raymer. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. The weather is getting colder, so this couldn't be timed any better. Thank you again. Sincerely,

-- Nurse Joan and  
the Raymer staff and children

We would like to thank you so very much for the donation of hats, scarves, gloves and socks! As you are probably aware, these items go very quickly at an elementary school! Your generosity is appreciated by all of us. Sincerely,

-- The students and staff  
of Coy Elementary



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting is Sunday, December 9th at both services. We'll vote on the 2013 budget and new council members. If you have questions about the budget, please call Jim Sommers at 419-691-7719 or 419-297-7420.

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

**Rebecca Circle**: Christmas lunch at B.J.'s Steakhouse on Saturday, December 1st at noon.

**Ruth Circle**: Christmas lunch at B.J.'s Steakhouse on Tuesday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m. Instead of a \$5.00 gift exchange this year, please bring \$5.00 to the lunch to be donated to Care-A-Van, a community van for people who have no means of transportation in order to take them to their doctor or therapy visits.

**Miriam Circle**: We'll meet on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Bayberry Clubhouse for our Christmas gathering.

**Hannah Circle**: Meet at Kim Kwiatkowski's home on Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30 pm.



## JAM (SUNDAY SCHOOL) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Join us on Sunday, December 16th at the 10:15 service for the Sunday School Christmas program.

Rehearsals for speaking parts only will be Sunday, December 2nd after the children's sermon during the 10:15 service. Practice for everyone will be Sunday, December 9th, with speaking parts also practicing during the 10:15 service. Then we will have a final rehearsal for everyone on Saturday, December 15th from 10:30 am to noon in the church.

Questions? Call Jamie Blazeovich at 419-691-7222.

### MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE

Matt DeWitt  
3709 Lakepointe Dr.  
Northwood, OH 43619

### CHICKEN & HAM DINNER UPDATE

Thank you for making our dinner a great success. We served 711 dinners. Thanks to everyone who worked, contributed, and spread the news about our dinner. In spite of Halloween being moved to the night of the dinner, we made a profit of \$4,031.46.

Also, many thanks to First St. John's bakers who contributed to the Chicken & Ham Dinner Bake Sale. We had our best bake sale ever. The overwhelming support of delicious goodies was greatly appreciated! Proceeds will help fund various projects in the church for the coming year. Thanks!



### ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY REMINDER

If you sent an RSVP for the Adult Christmas Party, please remember to join us on Sunday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm in the gym. Takacs Catering will prepare dinner for us, and Tony Zsigray, former First St. John's organist, will bring his school group here to entertain us. Hope to see you there!

## 2012 POINSETTIA SALE

*Sponsored by the Altar Guild*

Fill in the order blank below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship services on Christmas Day. Place your order form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to: **First St. John Altar Guild**

**Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 2, 2012.**

No. of plants @ \$8.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Color (circle one) Red      White      Marbled

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## THE MOUSE REPORT

The mouse has officially returned from vacationing at the creek. The Creek was relatively cool for the extremely hot summer we had. The cemetery was buzzing with activity in spite of the heat. Trees and shrubbery were trimmed. Grave markers were raised and realigned. A new map was created from the updated computerized records. Have you checked it out?

The best view of the Cemetery may be seen from the Educational building kitchen window. Do a “drive-by” in your vehicle. A “walk-thru” before or after Sunday worship could be a family conversational opportunity. There is a rumor saying, “a Community Veterans Memorial rest stop may be coming!” The walk will be healthful!

Your Mouse has been searching for a warm and comfortable place for the winter months. I have finally decided on the crossroads of our facility. The lounge is where we all “go to” or “pass through” when we move about our facility! Look for me there.

The lounge contains one of our best kept secrets. NO, it is not the coffee pot or the goodies in the refrigerator, but the church library which blends into the room’s décor.

While “passing through” the lounge I spotted a newly acquired children’s book entitled *What Would Jesus Do?* The subtitle is “Charles M. Sheldon’s classic IN HIS STEPS now retold for children.” I had heard this question and seen an antique set of Lantern Slides, copyright 1906, containing a slide with the “What Would Jesus Do” question.

So what makes this children’s story new and different from the adult version? The book has modern childhood situations and colorful illustrations with conversation starters. Also, there are references to rain barrels and cellar doors, so there are some other conversation starters, too-- a wonderful Christmas gift for children of all ages!

— Blessed Holidays from the Mouse

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING!



Everyone is invited to join our 7—12th graders to go Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 16th. Meet here at church at 6:30 pm. We’ll carol through the Lutheran Home and at the homes of some of our homebound members in the Oregon area. Afterwards, we’ll come back to church for hot chocolate and donuts. Come out for a fun evening!

## JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT BY DESIGN GATHERING

By Design, a group that allows time for moms to join together in fellowship, will meet Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the lounge. The theme of By Design this year is “Foundation.” As we move toward the celebration of the birth of our one true Foundation, He will be our focus. Please join us.

## MILITARY ADDRESSES

Here are the names and addresses of members, family, and friends of First St. John who serve in the military. Please remember them especially at this time of year. You can send cards or packages, and remember to pray for them, too! Thank you.

*Chief Petty Officer Cynthia Henderson*  
44425 Scobee  
California, MD 20619

*Chief Petty Officer Marc Le Duc*  
78382 Dukewood Trail  
Yula, FL 32097

*Matthew Phillips*  
4924 Soaring Springs Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89131

*Captain Lindsey Rowland*  
Madison Barracks  
237 Bartlett Dr.  
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685



*And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.*

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. — Luke 2:9-12*

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to all of you! May your hearts be filled with peace and joy as we await again the birth of Jesus. This month, the true meaning of Christmas - that God came to earth as the little baby Jesus to be our Savior and King, will be planted in the hearts of the Dayschool children. This truly is a season filled with joy and wonder! We anticipate the excitement will grow as the children learn the story of Jesus' birth and prepare for the Christmas programs they will share with their families and friends and hopefully some of you! They will learn that Advent means "coming" and that we must use the next four weeks to get ready for the special birth. They will learn that the best present of all is Jesus and He is from a God who loves us all!

Thanks to all who helped with our Thanksgiving Feasts! Pastor Blohm, Laurie Madrazo, Jamie Blazeovich, Jane Schuetz, Darlene Paul, Marge Bollinger, Karen Holmes, Nancy Gallaher and Jean DeWitt were all on hand to help serve and clean up. Gene Hagedorn was available to set up tables and chairs, rid us of garbage, quick mop floors, and anything else that I needed! Can't say enough about how often and how much Gene is on hand for our big productions! And, as always, Toni Wilbarger assisted those who needed questions answered or assistance with the elevator. We fed almost 1,000 people again this year, and the extra hands were so appreciated.

Our Christmas programs will be in the church the evenings of December 10, 11, 12, and 13 beginning at 7:00 pm. We also will have three programs during the day on the 13<sup>th</sup>. How special it is for the families of our school to be welcomed into the church by so many of you. Once again, thank you for your support.

We plan to carol this year at both the Lutheran Home

and at the Alzheimer's Day Center. This is a gift the children love to give, and it is a moving experience for all involved. This is a part of our ministry that we pray continues to strengthen. Please keep it in your prayers.

Our focus on the true meaning of Christmas will culminate with a Birthday party for Baby Jesus. A long-standing tradition at the Dayschool is the Spanish custom of La Posadas where we walk through the halls knocking on doors and looking for room for Baby Jesus. Eventually we end up in the church where a Nativity scene has been set up. We are so happy when we finally find room and are allowed to enter! We lay our gifts at the manger and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

By Design, a group that allows time for moms to join together in fellowship, will meet Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the lounge. The theme of By Design this year is "Foundation," and as we move toward the celebration of the birth of our one true foundation, He will be our focus.

Join us in prayer that our children will follow the teachings of a God who loves them so much He gave them His Son and that our teachers, who give more than should ever be expected, be renewed in their faith while continuing to serve God through serving children.

We, the staff of First St. John Dayschool, want to wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas season.

Merry Christmas from Us All

In Him,  
Barb Shellhammer



**COME ONE! COME ALL!!**

*Christmas Greetings!* The M-A-H-V-A-L-O-U-S Bell Choir will present a musical Christmas cantata at the 10:15 church service on Sunday, December 2nd. We hope you will join us for this all-music Christmas celebration. See you there!

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## First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain (As of November 20, 2012)

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**Crisis Prayer List:** *For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to the Chronic list after the first month unless someone is contacted about special circumstances:*

**Esther Bell  
Nick Elkington  
Family of Sally Schumaker Hartzell  
Family of Larry Vogtsberger**

**Chronic Prayer List:** *For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Will be moved off the list after 3 months unless someone is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:*

**Carol Abbey  
Elaine Ackerman  
Karl Ackerman  
Family of Darrel Arnold  
Jordyn Beckhusen  
Bob "Bobbie G" Brown  
Family of Amy Barda Buehrer  
Karen Burris  
Don Curtis  
Andrew Gale  
Grace Heninger  
Herman Jeskey  
Sophie LeDuc  
Wayne Lytle  
George "Skip" McCullough  
Jeanette Miller  
Ava Morin  
Sharon Murray  
Charlie Ohlson  
Florence Partin  
Jarrod Pedone  
Fred Rice, Sr.  
Cindy Roecker  
Bishop Sanchez  
Nichole Schlegel  
Family of Gary Taylor  
Bruce Traver  
Family of Bob Webb  
Candy Webster  
Terry Williams**

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

### **Prayer Chain Contacts**

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or  
cabbey@jcrinc.com

Lynn Folk	419-691-3410
Donna Koehn	419-693-5030
Ada Kreger	419-693-1549
Gloria Ross	419-836-7166

### ***PRAYER CHAIN THANK YOU***

Thank you to First St. John for all your prayers and cards and for placing me on your Prayer Chain. Everyone has been wonderful. My leukemia is under control, and I now have sight in one eye and the other eye is getting better. Thank you so much.

*-- Cindy Roecker*

**FIRST ST. JOHN'S  
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

Remember, we have several First St. John Christmas ornaments available. These were created last year to celebrate First St. John's 150th anniversary. These beautiful ornaments are 24K gold on brass and are available in the church office for \$15 each. Stop by the office and see Toni if you'd like to purchase one.

### ***NOTE ABOUT COUNCIL MINUTES***

The November council meeting was held on November 20, one day prior to the December newsletter being mailed. Because of this, the minutes from the meeting cannot be included. We will include them in the January newsletter, along with minutes from the December congregational meeting and the December council meeting.

### **MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS**

Hey guys, our next men's breakfast will be Saturday, December 1 at 8:00 am at Bob Evans Restaurant on Navarre Ave.

This is our advent breakfast, so please join us. If you need a ride, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.



FROM JAMIE'S DESK

# December

Christian Education - First St. John Lutheran Church

<http://www.firststjohn.com>



## PROJECT: GIVE A BLESSING

Attention Students and Congregation:

We have an amazing opportunity to help an area family in need this Christmas. We ask for your support by providing gifts for these families. A Christmas tree filled with paper ornaments is in the Narthex. On each ornament is a detailed gift recommendation, along with gender, to help you choose the appropriate gift.

Please tear off the front stapled ornament, then write your name and number on the other paper ornament and leave it on the tree.

Please return your gift by Monday, December 17th.

It is our prayer that as a church we will do these blessings throughout our life as believers.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Blessings,  
Jamie Blazeovich

**JAM NEWS**

We will be on break from  
December 23—December 30  
and will resume on January 6!  
Enjoy your family and blessings  
the Lord our Father has given  
each one of us!!



"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ."

- Frank McKibben

Check out Romans 5:15-17 (NLT)

This scripture talks about the awesome gift of Christ!

### The Greatest Christmas Gift

Each year we are reminded that

Christmas should not be just about giving and receiving presents. But if we really think about Christmas, it truly is all about gift giving! At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift ever given, by the greatest gift-giver of all, our wonderful God and Father!



### DECEMBER EVENTS

**Dec. 2** - Christmas Program Practice—Speaking parts only—After the Children's Sermon during the 10:15 service

**Dec. 9** - Practice during Sunday School hour

Speaking Parts only practice during the 10:15 service—see instructions above.

**Dec. 15**—10:30—12:00 Christmas Program Practice in Sanctuary

**Dec. 16** - Christmas Program Performance during 10:15 service.  
Please arrive at 9:00 a.m.

**Dec. 23 - Dec. 30** — No Sunday School

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!