

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 20<sup>th</sup>

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God. The list of poinsettia donations is included in the bulletin this morning.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

12-13-20: In-Person: 80 Online: 42 Total: 122

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED**

Marilyn Richards – Hospice Care at Divine Rehabilitation

**PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES:** *Add:* Don Dotson, Hannah Culler & family, Art Balk, Family of Bea Kline, Bill Nelson, Evan Matheney, Family of Rita McDougale, Marilyn Richards, Mary Ann Davies, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins & their parents, Family of Nick Sass, Jessica, Arlene, Delores Heilman

*Ongoing Concerns:* Lynn Balogh, Bennett (no last name given), Karen Bless, Mitchell Broyls, Scotty Broyles, Lori Capitola, Jeannette Carlo, Pat Christy, Marjorie Counterman, Nancy Coy, Chiara Del-Mace, Ann Dudics, Emmalyn (no last name given), Cory Folk, Jean Fry, Paulette Giaimo, Grace Harris Greenbank, Joan & Marty Hanshew, Toni Henline, Karen Huber, Pastor Beth Huener, Dana Justice, Phyllis Kelly, Mark Kieswetter, Joanne Koch, Tom Kohn, Ada Kreger, Heidi LeGrand, Carol Lorenzen, Darlene Lorenzen, Teresa McFarland, Joyce Martin, Donald Meyer, Dave Miller, Sue Moszkowicz, Angie Noe, Joyce Ostapowicz, Liz Perozek, Pam Pirolli, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Norm Schumakerr, Skylar (no last name given), Julie Swanson, Becky Thielan, Joan Tilton, Jane Vargo, Jim Vogelsang, Nick Wasserman, Katelyn Weirich, Barb West, Bill Wiener, John & Grace Yard, Raetta Zeisler

### **CALENDAR FOR DEC. 20 – DEC. 26**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	9:00 am	- Worship / Communion
	10:30 am	- Virtual JAM Sunday School
	11:30 am	- Virtual JAM Sunday School
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>		- CHRISTMAS EVE - OFFICE CLOSED
	7:00 pm	- Livestream (on your computer or iphone) Christmas Eve Service
<b><u>Friday</u></b>		- CHRISTMAS DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make Christmas a little brighter for two families from the East Toledo Family Center this year. We had over 20 people who donated gifts, and the moms from the receiving families picked up their gifts this past week. Thanks again!

**THANKS ALSO** to everyone who donated to Sabrene Clair's project which donated Mary Kay products to a few residents at Genacross next door. Here's a brief note from Sabrene: "We did it! \$1000 worth of Mary Kay products were delivered to the Genacross Lutheran Home residents today (December 11<sup>th</sup>)! I received a note from the Nursing Director, and she let me know how wonderfully happy this made the residents. She also promised to send pictures soon! Special shout out to my little girl Anna who made the residents homemade Christmas cards. We also gifted the workers who helped with the residents' makeup today with pink packages filled with goodies, as well as the makeup to use. Thank you again for donating toward this project and for making this possible!

**THANK YOU AGAIN!** Thank you to every one of our church friends who contributed items or money to make our Christmas Cheer project a huge success! Genacross Assisted Living residents received 40 large Christmas bags (for 9 men and 31 ladies) filled with unique gifts, including a fleece throw, ceramic mug, hot chocolate and tea, Thrivent t-shirt, dish towel, candies, 300-piece puzzle, activity books (word search, crossword, coloring), daily devotional book, large magnifying glass, large calendar, Christmas ornament, artificial succulent plant for their window sills, and a bag of personal items such as lip balm, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer and non-slip socks. We are blessed to be part of such a giving community of faith!

**POINSETTIA NOTICE:** The poinsettias at the front of the church today will remain there to decorate our altar area for the livestream Christmas Eve service and also for next Sunday's service on December 27<sup>th</sup>. If you ordered a poinsettia this year, you can take it home after next Sunday's in-person worship service. If you need to pick them up during the week, please call Toni in the church office (Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>) to arrange a pick up.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WRAP-UP:** The proposed 2021 budget was passed, 55 For, 2 Against. New and incumbent council members were approved, and in the run-off for the Finance Committee, Brenda Fussell won. Thank you to everyone who voted, and we look forward to the new year.

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS:** If you would like to mail in a contribution and would like it to be included in your 2020 financial statement, please mail it as soon as you possibly can. Our mail is no longer delivered every day—sometimes only once a week (most likely due to Covid and Christmas shipping). If you'd like to drop it off yourself, just call Toni in the church office during regular office hours and she will meet you at one of the Educational Building doors. Thank you.

**NEWS ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE:** Due to rising Covid cases, First St. John's Christmas Eve service will be "livestreamed" at 7:00 pm – **NO IN-PESON WORSHIP**. For those who are not familiar with this term, it means you can log on to the church's website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com) at 7:00 pm that night and watch the Christmas Eve service in real time from the safety of your home. The Christmas story will still be read, and pastor will give the Christmas message. There will still be music by Dr. Pattin, Annette Slater, Cheri Sergent (handbell solo), "socially distanced" praise singers, and a duet, and a quartet. Plus, the altar area will be decorated for Christmas. We will even provide time to sing Christmas carols, led by Annette. If you miss the livestream broadcast at 7:00 pm, the service will be recorded and placed on our website for future viewing. We also plan to record the service on DVD for those who do not have a computer.

If you'd like, you can arrange to place one of your own Christmas quilts or blankets across the back of "your" pew so it will be visible during the service. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Toni in the church office to arrange a time to come in with your quilt or blanket on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, or 23<sup>rd</sup>. We apologize that we cannot meet and worship together as we always do on Christmas Eve, but this method is the safest for everyone. May God bless you all, and we pray that Christmas Eve of 2021 will be a joyous, beautiful service we can all enjoy in person together.

**RECORD A FAMILY GREETING FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE!** If you'd like to record a video greeting (short, no more than 30 seconds), you can either email ([pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com)) or text it (567-395-0143) to Pastor Rayl and we will try to include it in our livestream Christmas Eve service. Use this opportunity to wish your family (including your church family) and friends a Merry Christmas.

**LIVESTREAM NOTICE:** We are now streaming the worship service live on our church website. Please note that if you are sitting in the pews closer to the front, you may be on camera. ☺ Our worship service will be live at 9:00 am each Sunday. You can view it on your computer, through most smart TVs, and also on any Apple product. (We are working out the kinks to try and get it to also play on Android products, so please bear with us.)

**NEW MEMBER(S) NEEDED FOR SOUND BOARD TEAM:** We are down to only three people who take turns operating the sound board for Sunday morning worship. We need one or two (or more!) individuals to help. Training is provided. We'd like to have additional people so each person will be "on duty" for only one week a month. If this is something you'd like to try, please contact Dave Wilbarger at 419-205-7855.

**NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE:** Virtual JAM Sunday School is now being held every Sunday for all grade levels on Zoom. Miss Sue Ann teaches the three, four, & five year olds (preschool and kindergarten) at 10:30 am. Miss Darlene teaches the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> grades at 10:30 am; and then each month, Miss Darlene and Miss Sue Ann will rotate teaching the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades at 11:30 am. You can still sign up your children at any time. If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Paul at 419-350-3364 or Debbie Ladd at 419-250-1460.

**CARD “SHOWER” FOR ADA:** Ada Kreger will celebrate her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Let’s “shower” her with some lovely birthday cards to cheer her. Her address is: 7411 Twin Lakes Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551. Thank you!

**ONLINE GIVING:** If you’d still like to consider online giving to the church, go to [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com) and click on “Stewardship & Giving” to sign up for the Vanco program. (If you need help, contact Lisa Anderson at 419-392-3712). Thank you so much for continuing to support First St. John in these times.

**HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES COLLECTION FOR ALL AGES:** The Personal Needs Pantry is collecting hats, mittens and gloves to distribute to our clients during the upcoming winter season. We need items for men, women and children of all ages. If you are able to donate, please place your items in the pantry drawer or the green tub that are both located in the Narthex (lobby) of the church. We will take donations throughout the winter season. Thank you in advance for your help!

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up TODAY. They will not be in the lounge this year. Instead, you can ask for them when you check in for in-person worship. Or, you can stop by the office during the week to pick them up. If you need to have them delivered, please call Toni in the office at 419-691-7222 to arrange a delivery time.

**OUR 160<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** In 2021, not that far away, we will begin celebrating 160 years of ministry here at First St. John Lutheran Church. The 160th Committee is busy planning activities to celebrate, but we would like your input. Please call or email committee chairman Bob Haar if you have any ideas or thoughts about how we can best celebrate this momentous occasion. Also, if you would like to serve on the committee, please let Bob know by contacting him at either [bobhaar36@gmail.com](mailto:bobhaar36@gmail.com) or 419-250-9409. He’d love to hear from you. Thanks.

**GIVING MEMORIALS:** You do not need to have a special card or envelope in which to enclose your memorial check. Simply mail it to the church with a note as to who it’s in memory of, who’s donating, and which fund you would like to donate to. You can also drop it off to the church office during the week.

**BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS PROJECT:** Honor the Savior by sharing his story! Join the Gideons International in donating Bibles to people around the world. Twenty-five dollars will provide 5 Bibles, \$50 for 10 Bibles, etc. Envelopes for donating by cash or check for this project can be found in the Narthex (lobby), and you can put your donation in the wooden church we use for our offering. If you’d like to donate online, please go to [www.BirthdayForJesus.org](http://www.BirthdayForJesus.org) The more Bibles that are donated, the more ornaments will appear on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Let’s fill it up! If you have questions, you can call the Gideons International toll free at 1-866-382-4253 or see Mark Ackerman. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF LUCAS COUNTY:** Cindy Cluckey, a member of First St. John, is heading this effort. Because the congregation has been so giving in the past, we have a really easy opportunity to give gifts to the children of Lucas County Children Services via an Amazon Wish list that is totally contactless and has an extensive list of price options. Anything purchased will be sent directly to Lucas County Children Services. If you can help, please use this link to order gifts: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3D0X40GC7EOJO?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3D0X40GC7EOJO?ref=wl_share)