

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

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!

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 4th, 5th, & 6th grades at 10:30 am; and then she teaches the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd 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.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS – DEADLINE TODAY: If you brought your gift today, please place it in the box in the west alcove of the Narthex. If you forgot it, please stop by the church office tomorrow with your gift as we’d like to get all the gifts to the families this week. Thank you so much for helping make the holidays a little brighter for two families this Christmas.

COMMUNION NOTICE: Depending on the Covid situation, we are hoping to have communion next Sunday, December 20th. We will not have communion this week or December 27th.

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.

NEWS ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE: Due to rising Covid cases, First St. John’s Christmas Eve service will be “livestreamed” at 7:00 pm. For those who are not familiar with this term, it means you can log on to the church’s website at 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, Cheri (on handbells), “socially distanced” praise singers, and perhaps even a duet. 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 21st, 22nd, or 23rd. 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) 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.

OUR 160th 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 or 419-250-9409. He’d love to hear from you. Thanks.

ONLINE GIVING: If you'd still like to consider online giving to the church, go to 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.

HANNAH CIRCLE NEWS: Our Christmas get-together has been cancelled. Stay safe, everyone.

GIVING MEMORIALS: Just a note – 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. 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

ADOPT-A-RESIDENT AT LUTHER HOME OF MERCY: With your help, Luther Home of Mercy hopes each of their residents will have a present under the tree this Christmas. If you are interested in helping, contact Arielle Semer at 419-972-4431 or asemer@lutherhome.org. When you sign up, you will receive gift ideas for the resident. Then simply purchase the gifts and deliver them to Luther Home a few weeks before Christmas. Luther Home of Mercy is located at 5810 N. Main St. in Williston, OH.