

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 27th

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

12-20-20: In-Person: 79

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Marilyn Richards – Hospice Care at Divine Rehabilitation

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* Doug Amstutz, Don Dotson, Hannah Culler & family, Art Balk, Family of Bea Kline, Evan Matheny, 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 Broyles, 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. 27 – JAN. 2

<u>Today</u>	9:00 am	- Worship
<u>Friday</u>		- NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

SPECIAL THANKS: We received this note in the mail this week, “Thank you all so much for the wonderful gift bags you made for the Assisted Living residents. They love them!”

-- From Mary Adkins, Activity Assistant at Genacross and all the Genacross residents

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 the week of December 13th. 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 11th)! 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: If you ordered a poinsettia for the altar area, you may take it home after the service today. If you prefer to pick it up during the week, please call Toni in the church office (Monday, December 28th through Thursday, December 31st) to arrange a time.

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 can. Our mail is no longer delivered every day—sometimes only once a week (most likely due to Covid and Christmas shipping). **NOTE:** If it's postmarked by December 31st, we can still add it to your 2020 statement. 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.

QUILTING GROUP NEWS: We will quilt again this year, beginning on Monday, January 4th from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm in the lounge. **IMPORTANT:** Due to ongoing Covid concerns, please note that only those ladies who assemble and sew the quilts will meet for the first few weeks. Please wear your masks, and we will be six feet apart. Please enter through the back door of the church to come up to the lounge to avoid as much interaction with school students and staff as possible--for their health and yours. After a few weeks, we will follow up with information on how we will tie the quilts. If you have questions, please call Jane Neal at 419-276-5057 or Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: All newly elected and incumbent members of Church Council, Day School Board, WELCA, and Altar Guild should plan to attend church on Sunday, January 10th. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2021 duties.

NOTE ABOUT FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY: Because of the ongoing Covid restrictions, we regret that we cannot have our annual Family Blessing Sunday this January. Perhaps when we return to regular worship, we will have it at a later date. In the meantime, we still pray that God blesses each of us and our families, today and always.

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 FOR SOUND BOARD TEAM: We are down to only 3 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 per month. If this is something you'd like to try, please contact Dave Wilbarger at 419-205-7855.

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 each month, Miss Darlene and Miss Sue Ann will rotate teaching 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.

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 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.

LAST DAY -- 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!