

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 6th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God and are from the wedding of Don Nelson, Jr. and Amy Ohrtman who were married here at First St. John yesterday afternoon.

MESSENGERS & HOMEBOUND OUTREACH are presented in loving memory of John Spoerl on his 70th birthday on December 5th, given by his family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

11-29-20: In-Person: 58

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Marilyn Richards – Hospice Care at Divine Rehabilitation

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* 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, Hannah Culler & family, Chiara Del-Mace, Ann Dudics, Emmalyn (no last name given), Cory Folk, Jean Fry, Paulette Gaiimo, Grace Harris Greenbank, Joan & Marty Hanshew, Toni Henline, Karen Huber, Pastor Beth Huener, Dana Justice, Phyllis Kelly, Bea Kline, 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. 6 – DEC. 12

Today	9:00 am	- Worship
	10:30 am	- Virtual JAM Sunday School for 4 th & 5 th grades
	11:30 am	- 8 th Grade Catechism

WELCOME TO WORSHIP: We're so glad you're here! Even in the midst of uncertain times, we can count on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to come alongside us in every circumstance.

CONGRATULATIONS to Don Nelson, Jr. and Amy Ohrtman who were married here at First St. John yesterday afternoon.

THANK YOU so much for all the prayers, cards, and get well wishes for my recent surgery. Everything went well and I'm fully recovered. -- *Darlene Lorenzen*

THANK YOU: The Altar Guild extends its appreciation to Dave Warnke for repairing, restoring, and refinishing our baptismal font. It was much needed, and looks great!

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.)

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY: An order form can be found in the back of today's bulletin. You can place your order in the wooden church in the Narthex (same place where our offering goes). Thank you!

EGGLESTON-MEINERT-PAVLEY CALENDARS for 2021 are in the Narthex if you'd like to take one.

8th GRADE CATECHISM NEWS: We will meet today from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, and then on December 20th at the same times. After Christmas break, we will begin again on January 3rd, then meet every other Sunday from 11:30 – 1:00.

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.

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!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS: We have someone covering the purchase of all the gifts we listed. ** If you'd still like to help, we will divide any gift cards we get between the two families. The deadline to turn in the gifts is next Sunday, December 13th. Please bring your gift to church and place it in the box in the west alcove of the Narthex OR drop it off at the Educational Building during office hours. 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 will be scheduling communion for the Sunday before Christmas, which is December 20th. We will not have communion the remaining Sundays in December.

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. Patten, 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.

ALTAR GUILD: Our Christmas party scheduled for Monday, December 7th at Beth Hugueley's home has been cancelled. Beth will contact everyone about our monthly meeting.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED! We still need flowers for the altar for December 13th (and into 2021, of course). If you would like to order flowers for the altar for Sunday worship, please call Toni in the church office at 419-691-7222 and she will record your message for the Sunday you choose. Vases are \$15; you can mail your check to the church office.

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.

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!

REMINDER: Please take your bulletin with you after church. If you do not want to keep it, please place it in the recycling basket by the main door before you leave. Thank you.

A VIRTUAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE: Although Capital University is unable to offer an in-person Christmas Festival this year, the 2020 Festival, **Together We**, will be offered online, with the opportunity to share the joy and hope of the season with audiences near and far. **Together We** includes never-released video highlights of past Christmas festivals (from 2012, 2014, 2015 & 2019), performed by the renowned Conservatory of Music choral ensembles and instrumentalists. This virtual concert also will feature a first-ever performance by the 2020-21 Chapel Choir. Join us as **together we** celebrate the miracle and wonder of the Christmas story. Links to the video concert will be at www.capital.edu/christmas-festival today at 3:30 pm.

STARS AND PROMISES CONCERT WITH PETER MAYER: In the first-ever ELCA event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for singer Jimmy Buffett. The concert will premiere on the ELCA Facebook page on Wednesday, December 9th at 8:00pm. The concert is a gift to you this Advent season, a way to thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries. Register now on the ELCA's Facebook page or at <https://community.elca.org/online-registration/peter-mayer-benefit-concert-2020> to receive a free Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!

THE NEED IS GREAT -- OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

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

The following are all separate projects benefitting residents of Genacross.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR GENACROSS RESIDENTS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Sabrene Clair gave us an update this week. We only need \$188 more in donations to cover the cost of sending these products to the residents at Genacross. On December 11th, all items will be adorned with a festive flare and delivered to the residents. Sixty products will be purchased to create 12 sets for 12 residents. Each set will contain five items; a pampering hand set, lotion for feet & legs with fuzzy socks, body lotion, fragrance and lipstick. **We need your help providing monetary donations to go toward these 60 items for the residents (the amount is up to you).** Ways to provide a donation to Sabrene are as follows: Venmo - SabreneClair-2; PayPal - brene80@hotmail.com ; cash; credit Card; or check (made payable to Sabrene Clair). If you have questions, please contact her at brene80@hotmail.com or 419-343-3955 (texts are acceptable). Thank you for helping to make a special day for Genacross residents.

GENACROSS TOLEDO CAMPUS – ADOPT-A-RESIDENT: Genacross is again asking for our help in adopting residents for Christmas. This year, they are asking for help filling gift bags for the residents. Items needed include: hard candy, sugar-free candy, candy bars (no nuts), puzzle books, coloring books, colored pencils, seasonal window clings, non-slip socks, combs/brushes, stationery, stamps, pens, lip balm, fleece throws, stuffed animals, 2021 room calendars, wafer cookies (regular and sugar free), jigsaw puzzles, shampoo, head bands/barrettes, lotion, shaving cream, shampoo. (No other food than what is on the list, please.) Please return gifts to the facility by Friday, December 11th at the main lobby screening table. Please place a tag on your gift to indicate whether it's for a man or a woman. For questions, call Diane Cline at 419-724-1739. Thank you!

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.