

ANNOUNCEMENTS – November 29th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of those who have contributed their time and talents for our Sunday services during this time of Covid, given by Louise Sommers (2 vases); and in memory of Marcia Henninger, given by her husband, Darold.

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Norm Schumaker – St. Charles Acute Rehab

Marilyn Richards – Hospice Care at Divine Rehabilitation

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* Marilyn Richards, Mary Ann Davies, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins & their parents, Nick Sass & family, 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, Hannah Culler & family, Chiara Del-Mace, Ann Dudics, Emmalyn (no last name given), Cory Folk, Jean Fry, Paulette Giaimo, Kathleen Gingrich, 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 Riegler, Logan Roberts, Norm Schumaker, 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 NOV. 29 – DEC. 5

<u>Today</u>	9:00 am	- Worship
	10:30 am	- Virtual JAM for Preschool & Kindergarten
<u>Friday</u>		- Office Closed
	5:00 pm	- Wedding Rehearsal for Nelson / Ohrtman
<u>Saturday</u>	2:00 pm	- Wedding for Nelson / Ohrtman

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 to everyone who donated shoeboxes to our Operation Christmas Child project. We had a total of 29 boxes donated. Thanks also to Jeff and Debbie Ladd for taking the boxes to our regional collection location.

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!

THANK YOU to the Nelson family who decorated our big tree this year, and to some of our "regulars" of the decorating committee who came in at various times this past holiday weekend to socially distance and still make our sanctuary beautiful for Christmas.

POINSETTIA ORDERS: This is just a reminder that your poinsettia orders (they will be up for the December 20th and 27th worship services) are due next Sunday, December 6th. An order form can be found in the December newsletter and in the back of today's bulletin. You can mail your check and order form to the church. Thank you!

8th GRADE CATECHISM will next meet on December 6th & 20th before breaking for Christmas. We start again on January 3rd, then meet every other Sunday from 11:30 – 1:00.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to increased cases of Covid-19 in Lucas County, we have returned to no corporate singing or spoken responses. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater and Praise Singers (on alternate Sundays) will provide music. The service will be recorded and published to the website.

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.

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today at 10:30 am our preschool and kindergarten students will have a live Zoom lesson. If you miss the live lesson, it will be posted later on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Lessons will be on a staggered schedule. You can sign up your children any time! If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Paul at 419-350-3364 or Debbie Ladd at 419-250-1460.

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 10 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.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available next Sunday. They will not be in the lounge this year for pick up. 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.

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

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.

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 6th and 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 on the following dates and times only: **Saturday, December 5, 7:30 pm & Sunday, December 6, 3:30 pm**. Mark your calendars to celebrate this joyous season **together** with us!

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!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Here are the gifts needed for two families this Christmas. We have extended the deadline to Sunday, December 13th. To help ensure safe distancing, gift suggestions are not on paper ornaments in the Narthex as in previous years. Instead, they are listed below. If you can purchase a gift or two, please contact the church office and let Toni know which gift(s) you plan to buy. **IMPORTANT:** You must contact the church office at 419-691-7222 before buying the gift in order to avoid double purchasing by someone else. Then 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.

Here are the needed gifts for Family #1:

Girl age 6 - Clothes for a baby doll

Here are the needed gifts for Family #2:

Mom - Pants, size 18

2 Gift cards for family (WalMart, Meier, Kroger, for example)

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, a member of First St. John, invites you to join her this Christmas in pampering the Genacross residents with Mary Kay products. 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 so much for helping to make a special day for Genacross residents.

***** NOTE: Sabrene is extending an offer to help purchasing lotion for the "Christmas Cheer" project (see below). Your kindness will be rewarded with a savings offer for yourself.***

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR GENACROSS ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS: With Covid rising, the only visits permitted are 30-minutes at restricted times three days a week. These elderly residents are sad and lonely because of all these restrictions. Let's spread some Christmas cheer. Many items such as fleece throws, lip balm, calendars, puzzle books, lotion (only 14 more are needed- see Sabrene Clair's Genacross project above) have already been purchased, but we'd like to create 40 gift bags (31 women and 9 men currently are in Assisted Living) and we need your help to complete the gift bags. If you can donate toward this cause, please contact LuAnn Spoerl (419-836-1651) or Pam Beavers (419-691-3929) so they can let you know what is still needed. All items need to be turned in either at Church or to LuAnn or Pam by December 1st. Thank you.

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!