

ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 31st

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Jim Sommers on his and Louise's 63rd wedding anniversary, given by Louise Sommers; in loving memory of Ken Yard on his birthday, given by his family; and in honor of Gary and Joanne Henningsen's 52nd wedding anniversary, given by their family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

1-24-21: In Person: 60 Online: 112 Total: 172

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Susie Moszkowicz – Kingston Rehab, Perrysburg

Gary Henningsen – Orchard Villa

Delores Heilman – The Labuhn Center

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* Family of Marilyn Richards, Collin Folk & Alyssa, Eric Johnson, Gary Henningsen, Donna Miller, Family of Joel Sandwisch, Leona Ryan, Family of Jim Vogelsang, Family of Phyllis Kelly, Family of Frank Skorupa, Sharon Winslow

Ongoing Concerns: Doug Amstutz, Art Balk, Lynn Balogh, Bennett (no last name given), Karen Bless, Lori Capitola, Jeannette Carlo, Pat Christy, Marjorie Counterman, Nancy Coy, Hannah Culler & family, Mary Ann Davies, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Chiara Del-Mace, Don Dotson, Emmalyn (no last name given), Jean Fry, Paulette Giaimo, Grace Harris Greenbank, Delores Heilman, Toni Henline, Mary Hubaker, Karen Huber, Pastor Beth Huener, Jessica (no last name given), Dana Justice, Mark Kieswetter, Joanne Koch, Tom Kohn, Ada Kreger, Heidi LeGrand, Carol Lorenzen, Teresa McFarland, Joyce Martin, Evan Matheney, Donald Meyer, Sue Moszkowicz, Joyce Ostapowicz, Liz Perozek, Pam Pirolli, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Norm Schumaker, Skylar (no last name given), Julie Swanson, Becky Thielan, Joan Tilton, Jane Vargo, Nick Wasserman, Katelyn Weirich, Jeff Wheeler, Bill Wiener, John & Grace Yard, Raetta Zeisler

CALENDAR FOR JAN. 31 – FEB. 6

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| <u>Today</u> | 9:00 am | - Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 am | - Virtual Sunday School for 3, 4, 5 year olds |
| | 10:30 am | - Virtual Sunday School for 4 th , 5 th , & 6 th grades |
| | 11:30 am | - Virtual Sunday School for 1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd grades |
| <u>Monday</u> | 9:30 am | - Quilting |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | 11:30 am | - Bible Study on Zoom |
| | 6:30 pm | - Finance Committee in lounge |

THANK YOU to Penny DeWitt who was our chairperson for the Bereavement Committee for the last several years. Penny is stepping down as chairperson, and we thank her for all her hard work!

THANK YOU to Jane Neal for making two green tablecloths to cover the small communion tables. When we purchased new green paraments for the altar, lecturn, and pulpit, we then needed a better color match for the small tables. Thank you, Jane!

FINANCIAL RECAP FOR 2020: In 2020 our members generously contributed \$473,301. Of this total, \$344,687 went to fund day- to- day operations of the church and \$128,614 helped cover designated projects. Despite 2020 being a difficult year to worship in familiar ways, First St. John members made it possible to make improvements that will have a lasting impact and enhance our worship experience for years to come. We ended the year with a surplus as the Payment Protection Loan was forgiven and the Day School was able to reimburse the church for their portion of shared expenses. We are very thankful for your continued support financially as well as with your time and talents. We pray that God continues to bless, protect, and guide our congregation in this new year.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERVICES: Beginning on Ash Wednesday on February 17th, worship services will be at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm each Wednesday in Lent, which ends on March 24th. Due to continuing COVID-19 virus concerns, we will modify our Lenten worship this year. All current restrictions and safety protocols for COVID will be observed. There will be NO Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. Both Ash Wednesday services will be livestreamed, and each Wednesday's 11:00 am Lenten service will be livestreamed, recorded, and posted on the church's website.

PROBLEMS WITH LIVE STREAMING? If you have problems viewing the livestream of the worship service, please contact Pastor Rayl directly at 567-395-0143 (phone or text) after 10:30 am to discuss the issue you may be having. He may be able to determine the problem so you can view the service next time without difficulty.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING: Our next Altar Guild meeting will be held Monday, February 8th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

160th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING: The Anniversary Committee's next meeting will be Monday, February 15th at 7:30 pm online via ZOOM.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS: Penny DeWitt is stepping down as committee chairperson, so we need someone else to take over. If you or someone you know might be interested or if you have questions, please contact Sue Ann Rogers, Chris Hunsaker, Darlene Lorenzen, or Esther Bell.

WELCA BOARD MEETING: Our next meeting will be Monday, February 15th at 6:30 pm at the Esther Bell's home. Please remember to bring your mask.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE: During the season of Lent our online study on the Sermon on the Mount will switch to Thursdays at 11:30 am (February 18th, 25th, etc.) so as not to conflict with the Wednesday Lenten services. Please note the study will be recorded and posted on the church's website at www.firststjohn.com

DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Registration for the 2021-2022 Day School program has begun. The registration fee is waived for active church members, but you must still complete the registration form in order to reserve a spot for your child. Forms can be found on the school's website at www.firststjohndayschool.org Children must be at least three years old and potty-trained. Our classes are from 9:00 am to noon, with extended care available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. For questions, please call Andrea Buckley at 419-691-6480.

HELP NEEDED FOR SOUND BOARD: We still need one more person to help operate the sound board for Sunday morning worship. 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.

LAST CHANCE FOR 2020 CALENDARS: If you've been meaning to pick up a 2020 calendar, please do so today in the Narthex. We will be taking them to recycling after today.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY is paper towels. Please deposit your items in the pull-out drawer to the left of the Feed Your Neighbor bin in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or in the green bin (also in the Narthex). *NOTE: Remember, no travel size or sample items—the families who come to this pantry need items to last them an entire month.* Thank you for your help.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: We are beginning our Souper Bowl of Caring program early this year, with some changes. Please note we will not be collecting non-perishable food items this year. Instead, we will accept monetary donations that we will give to Lutheran Social Services so they can purchase needed items. The soup pot is in the Narthex (lobby) for your donations, or you can write a check to First St. John Lutheran and write "Souper Bowl of Caring" on the memo line. Thank you.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and will attend college for the 2021/2022 school year. Applications are in the church office. Please turn in completed applications to the church office by March 30th to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

CHRISTMAS TREE DONATIONS NEEDED: We have purchased a new Christmas tree for next year's Advent and Christmas seasons. The tree has been delivered. We had some money in a fund for Christmas decorations, but it wasn't enough to cover the entire cost. To that end, we are accepting donations for the tree and some new decorations for the sanctuary. If you would like to help, please make a check out to First St. John Lutheran Church and write "Tree Decorations" on the memo line. Then you can either drop it in the mail or put it in with your regular offering if you come to in-person worship. Thank you for your help.

ORDERING ALTAR FLOWERS: If you'd like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone, please call Toni in the church office at 419-691-7222. She will write your order in the red flower book since it is not currently displayed in the Narthex. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can either drop it in the small church in the Narthex where the offering goes, or you can drop it off or mail it to the church office.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the Narthex in the alcove on the east side of the church. If you can deliver a box or two to other members, that would be helpful. You also can stop by the office during the week to pick them up.

SAVE THE DATE: The Lutheran Ministries of Mercy and their affiliates, Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of NW Ohio, invite you to participate in their annual meeting on Monday, March 8th at 6:30 pm via Zoom. They do plan on voting this year. Guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Ohio District. Please RSVP by February 12th to Karen at kshaffe@lutherhome.org or 419-972-4394. Please leave your name, telephone number, and when applicable, your church's name and city. Additional information on how to connect to Zoom will be sent to you in February.