

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 26<sup>th</sup>*

**POINSETTIAS AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH** are presented to the glory of God. See the insert in today's bulletin for a list of donors and commemorations.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

12-19-21: 8:00 am: 57    10:30 am: 127    Chapel Communion: 2    Online: 46    Total: 231

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED**

None of which we are aware.

**PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES:** *Add:* Norm Schumaker, Family of Ada Kreger, Christina Merritt, Family of Richard Snyder, John Hansen, Leroy & Summer Hensley, Logan Murphy, Jim Schumaker, Debbie Eversman, Margaret Witt, Family of Mark Walker, Sara Richardson, A.J. Walker, Richard Counterman, Larry Paul, Janet Quiroga, Laura Scherer and family, Rob Zunk

**Ongoing Concerns:** Christine Balk, Lynn Balogh, Bennett, Dan Bibish, Karen Bless, Pastor Joe Brosious, Amy Brumley, Lori Capitola, Jeannette Carlo, Pat Christy, Marjorie Counterman, Nancy Coy, Hannah Culler & family, Mary Ann Davies, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Dawn, Chiara Del-Mace, Emmalyn, Paulette Giaimo, Scott Giaimo & family, Mickey Jurrus Gill, Mary Gillespie, Grace Harris Greenbank, Tom Hartford, Gary Henningsen, Pastor Beth Huener, Dana Justice, Mark Kieswetter, Joanne Koch, Tom Kohn, Sharon Kruse, Heidi LeGrand, Linda, Dustin Lively, Joyce Martin, Terry Mays, Bonnie Meier, Donna Miller, Nick, Liz Perozek, Pam Pirolli, John Ranchan, Todd Reynolds, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Ann Ryan, Judy Sharp, Shelley Sherman, Skylar, Ann Smith, Louise Sommers, Julie Swanson, Tom Tedrow, Becky Thielan, Joan Tilton, Carlene Trost, Kellie Ulrich, Jane Vargo, Nick Wasserman, Katelyn Weirich, Jeff Wheeler, Bill Wiener, Sharon Winslow, John Yard, Raetta Zeisler

### **CALENDAR FOR DEC. 26 – JAN. 1**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	10:30 am	- Worship / Communion
<b><u>Monday</u></b>		- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**WELCOME** to First St. John Lutheran Church! We're happy you're here. If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest book, located in the Narthex (lobby).

**SPECIAL WELCOME** to Bradley Baker, our guest soloist this morning. You may remember him from our 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service this past October and from previous visits with us. Welcome back to First St. John!

**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of Ada Kreger who passed away on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was held this past Wednesday.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to everyone who came to say goodbye at my grandma's funeral service. She loved this church and everyone in it, and she loved teaching the Bible. Thank you to those who prepared and served the luncheon and to everyone who expressed their condolences and sent cards.

*-- Jonathan Cypher*

**THANK YOU** to the elders for their hard work and to all who donated food or volunteered to help Ada Kreger's bereavement luncheon this past week.    *-- Kris Abel and the Bereavement Committee*

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated gifts to help a local family for Christmas this year. We had 28 households buying gifts for our family of 7. The mother of the family picked up the gifts on Tuesday this past week. Thank you so much; your generosity is so wonderful to see!

**THANK YOU:** As we celebrate this Advent season of joy and anticipation, I'm writing to say "Thank you" for the generous gift of \$591, given by you to the Genacross Lutheran Services General Fund. Thank you for your partnership with Genacross and your patient kindness in light of the sale of our Toledo ministry building. God bless and be with you all!    *-- Dr. Jim Dumke, VP for Mission Integration*

**2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Today is the last day to have your offering and any additional donations included on your 2021 financial statement.

**WORSHIP NOTE:** We will have only one service next Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 am.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** The church office will be closed tomorrow, December 27<sup>th</sup>, and also on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**MISSING:** Two plastic ladles and a glass punch bowl are missing from the lounge. If you remember seeing them somewhere, please call the church office. Thank you.

**2022 CALENDARS:** Eggleston-Meinert-Pavley's 2022 calendars are here. These calendars are their generic version, though; the ones with First St. John's information on them have not come in yet. When we get those, we'll let you know. The calendars can be found in the Narthex and the lounge and are free to everyone.

**PLEASE PICK UP** any dessert trays, pans, or Tupperware that you may have brought food in for the Day School Christmas programs and/or Ada Kreger's funeral luncheon. You can find them on the table by the closets in the lounge. Thank you!

**ALTAR GUILD** will meet on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. We will continue in our "Men of the Bible" study with the study of Joshua.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in the lounge. Please remember to bring your own lunch.

**JANUARY NEWSLETTERS** will be available on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for pick up if that is how you have chosen to receive them. We hope to email and snail mail the bulk of the newsletters by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**BALLOT RESULTS** from the December 12<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting follow. All those who ran for office were voted into our church council. The 2022 budget was approved. The majority of votes for the capital projects were cast for Option 2, which was the interior renovations AND the parking lot resurfacing. Thank you for voting!

**FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY:** During worship on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> you can come forward as a family (and yes, one person is a family in God's eyes) and receive a blessing. You can come with different people in your family (you and your spouse, you and your extended family, etc.) or even those you consider as family—as many times as you want. What a wonderful way to begin 2022!

**QUILTING GROUP NEWS:** We will begin meeting again on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the lounge, and we meet every Monday from January through March. Everyone is welcome; no experience necessary! If you have questions, please call Jane Neal at 419-276-5057 or Ginny Nissen at 419-698-2822. See you soon!

**FOUNDER'S SUNDAY:** At both services on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special recognition of the founders of First St. John. This is part of our 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pastor Paul Doerfler, descendent of our founding pastor Johannes Doerfler, will be preaching that Sunday.

**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 16<sup>th</sup>. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2022 duties.

**ATTENTION BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPANTS:** We will resume our Bible study after the holidays on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> (same times as before). Have a wonderful Christmas!

**NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER AVAILABLE:** The new Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for January – March are now available for pick up. They are in either large or small print and can be found in the Narthex or the lounge. The small print version can also be found in the top slot of the caddy on the wall outside the door by the choir loft.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2022 are on tables in the lounge, listed in alphabetical order from left to right, top to bottom. If a married couple is contributing jointly, the label on the box will show the husband's name. If you do not have envelopes but would like to receive them, please contact Toni in the church office at 419-691-7222.

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR DECEMBER** is band aids and disposable razors. (Our January focus item is dish soap.) 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 in the lounge. Thanks!

**BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS PROJECT:** Honor the Savior by sharing his story! Join the Gideon's 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 offering plate. If you'd like to donate online, please go to [www.BirthdayForJesus.org](http://www.BirthdayForJesus.org). The more Bibles 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 Gideon's International toll free at 1-866-382-4253 or see Mark Ackerman. Thank you!

**COMMUNITY DISCOUNT CARDS ON SALE:** This ongoing fundraiser for our Day School involves purchasing a card that allows you to enjoy special discounts at your favorite local vendors. The card is good from November 1, 2021 to November 1, 2022. Some of the savings include 15% off at El Camino Real, \$12 for a 20-pound propane tank refill at Gladieux Home Center, 10% off at Salad Galley, 10% off at Lee Williams House of Meats, 15% off a full service oil change at Valvoline, \$5 off \$25 at Live Lively Boutique, plus discounts at other local stores like Soap City Car Wash, Shawarmaholic, Beth Allen's Florist, Great Clips, Eastern Lanes, and Marco's Pizza. Cards are \$20, and you can purchase them in the Narthex after church today and also on upcoming Sundays. Or, you can purchase them from the church or Day School offices during the week. Thank you for supporting First St. John's biggest ministry!

**HELP FOR TORNADO VICTIMS:** On December 10<sup>th</sup>, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. More than 330,000 people are without electricity across multiple states. The full extent of the damage is expected to become clear in the coming days. Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete. **Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes.** Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery.

Please give today. You can call 1-800-638-3522 Monday – Friday from 8AM to 5PM Central Time to make a donation with a credit card. Or you can mail a check to Lutheran Disaster Response and write "U.S. Tornadoes" on the memo line. Then send it to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009