

ANNOUNCEMENTS – May 24th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God.

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

None of which we are aware

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* Larry Baumer, Eleanor Heckman, Paulette Giaimo, Katelyn Weirich, Family of Dorothy Zeadker, Family of Chuck Neal, Family of Margie Myers, Terry Crowell, Family of Dylan (no last name)

Ongoing Concerns: Lee & Karyl Antoine, Lynn Balogh, Karen Bless, Mitchell Broyles, The Burk Family, Rosie Burtch, Jeannette Carlo, Pat Christy, Greg Contat, Marjorie Counterman, Nancy Coy, Dick Crouse, Hannah Culler and family, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Joy DeVore & family, Chiara Del-Mace, Robin Duck & family, Ann Dudics, Sharon Grames, Dorothy Felderman, Sara Florian, Toni Henline, Karen Huber, Pastor Beth Huener, Dana Justice, Phyllis Kelly, Mark Kieswetter, Joanne Koch, Tom Kohn, Carole Kolibar, Ada Kreger, The Lee Family, Heidi LeGrand, Bonnie Lutzmann, Joyce Martin, Teresa McFarland, Donald Meyer, Donna Miller, Jason Monti and family, Mary Bell Moore, Bill Morse, Susan Murphy, Joyce Ostapowicz, Pfouts family, Pam Pirolli, David Poore, Mike Ray, Courtney Reed, Michael Rheinbolt & family, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Karen Rowley, Neil Rutledge, Erich Schiddel, Andrew Schlegel, Rick Schumaker, Connie Singlar, Skylar (no last name given), Michelle Stanberry, Diane Swartz, Becky Thielan, Joan Tilton, Barb Tischinae, Samuel Unnerstall, Steve Uzl, Jane Vargo, Jim Vogelsang, Nick Wasserman, Barb West, Kellyn Wyngate, John & Grace Yard, Raetta Zeisler

CONGRATULATIONS to Nick and Lauren (Kirby) Paul who welcomed their baby daughter, Olivia Teal, to their family last Friday, May 15th.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO to the Brandon DeWitt, the winner of this year's Winslow Scholarship.

NOTE FROM MARY MORTEMORE: Celebrating my connection with First St. John Lutheran Church and the good folks who worship there, I enclose a gift of love to be used in any manner you choose. May God continue to bless us all as we serve in these challenging times.

-- In His Love, Mary Mortemore (our former substitute organist)

THANK YOU: Just as Paul thanked the Christians at Corinth for their generous support of the Jerusalem Church and reminded them their giving was also a thank-offering to God, I want to acknowledge your recent gift to the ministry of Genacross Lutheran Services. It is a beautiful way for us to join together in giving thanks to our bountiful and benevolent God, even in this time of the COVID pandemic and Social Distancing. My prayer is that God will continue to enrich you in every way as your generous gift of \$500 to Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo helps us make a real difference in the lives of some of God's most special people. May God continue to bless you and your faithful service. To God be the glory.

-- Dr. Jim Dumke, VP for Mission Integration, Genacross Lutheran Services

LATEST INFORMATION ON REOPENING CHURCH: The Reopening Task Force group had its first meeting to investigate when and how we will reopen in-person worship at First St. John. At this time, we do not anticipate opening up for in-person worship until July. This will allow us time to see how the reopening of community businesses affects the number of cases in this area. Make no mistake—we would love to have everyone back again. But we want to err on the side of caution and in love and protection for our church family. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact anyone from this committee:

Pastor Rayl – 567-395-0143; **Mark Ackerman** – 419-345-6934; **Chuck & Andra Bell** – 419-290-4431 or 419-350-7358; **Matt DeWitt** – 419-270-9935; **Keith Mullen** – 419-345-3474; **Larry Paul** – 419-327-7097; **Annette Slater** – 419-262-0880; or **Toni Wilbarger** – 419-250-4665.

LISTENING TO WORSHIP ON-LINE: Since in-person worship will not occur for a while, make sure you watch our services online. The link to each service is at www.firststjohn.com Once there, look on the right side of the home page in the box labeled "Recent Posts." Also, the most recent link will be emailed to all local members and shared on the church's Facebook page.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY CANCELED: After much discussion, we have decided NOT to have an "official" service this year. Christ Dunberger Post is unclear about their activities as well, due to the uncertainty stemming from the pandemic. -- Cemetery Committee

CHURCH OFFICE REOPENING: Beginning Monday, June 1st church office hours will change to 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday, until after Labor Day. Regarding the reopening of the church office, we ask that you observe the following:

- Please refrain from "popping in." If you feel you must come to the office, please call ahead at 419-691-7222 and make an appointment. If you're coming to pick something up or drop something off, Toni will meet you at one of the doors.
- If you must come into the building, please wear a mask and sanitize your hands at the sanitizing stations near the door and remember to observe the 6-feet of distance rule.
- When you come to the church office, please knock and wait to be let in. Toni will not be wearing a mask when she is alone in her office, so knocking and waiting will allow her to put her mask on before you enter. Thank you.
- Please keep the double doors between the lounge/library and the rest of the Educational building closed at all times.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING: Contributions are still down from what we'd normally see. To give online, 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). You may also consider mailing your offering: 2471 Seaman St. Toledo, OH. 43605. Someone is picking up our mail at the downtown post office and depositing any contributions. If you have offering checks that have not yet been cleared, they may still be delayed due to postal service problems. Please know we will deposit them as they are received. **We hope to restore our regular mail delivery on June 1st, but keep in mind that it may still be hit-or-miss for another week or so after that.** Thank you for your patience.

DO YOU SEW?: In preparation for when we DO return to in-person worship, we would like to be able to offer cloth masks to those who may not have one. If you have already made masks for other places, would you consider making several more and giving them to First St. John? If you want to donate, please call Toni in the church office at 419-691-7222 and arrange for a time to come by and drop them off. Thank you in advance for your help!

PARK & PRAY AT GENACROSS: Every Thursday at 6:30 pm the radio station 102.3 Proclaim FM broadcasts prayer for those who have contracted the virus, all the health care workers, and other first responders. Those who want to be a visible demonstration of support for these workers have been parking at the hospital with their lights on, perhaps even honking their horns a few minutes before the start of the prayer. We would like to do this for the workers at the Genacross Toledo campus next door to our church.

If you would like to participate, we will meet again THIS THURSDAY, May 28th, beginning at 6:15 pm (please arrive BEFORE 6:30 when the prayer begins). Then tune your car radio to 102.3 FM so you can hear the prayers. We have permission from Genacross to park in all parking lots (Assisted Living, the Labuhn Center, and the Care Center at 131 N. Wheeling). You also can park on the driveways surrounding the building IF you pull your car off to the side so workers can still drive through. The event only lasts 10 or 15 minutes, so please come and show your support if you can. Invite your friends—everyone is welcome to participate! **** The workers at Genacross may even bring out a few of the residents so they can see us first hand (except for Labuhn Center, which is their COVID-19 building). ****

A NEW WAY TO DO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We ARE having VBS, but because of COVID-19 precautions, it will be very different. We are again partnering with Christ United Methodist Church and since Christ United has an FM receiver, VBS will be in their parking lot. But instead of meeting for four days in one week, we will meet each Wednesday at 7 pm beginning June 17th and running through July 15th. Our theme is "Knights of the North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor." Registration information is coming soon.

NO RENTALS THIS SUMMER: As we navigate these strange days of the COVID-19 virus, we have determined that for this summer we cannot rent out the lounge or the gym, nor will we be able to accommodate borrowing tables and chairs. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

WINSLOW MEMORIAL GOLF SCRAMBLES: At this time, we plan to hold our annual golf tournament on Saturday, August 1st at 8:00 am (shotgun start) at Eagle's Landing golf course. Price is \$70 per person, which includes a meal (to be determined). Proceeds help fund the Winslow Memorial Scholarship that is awarded each year to a member of First St. John who is graduating high school. If you would like to sponsor a hole or make a donation, please contact Mike Winslow at 419-691-8430. To accommodate COVID-19 precautions, this year only two people can have a cart and only one person can ride in it. Thank you for supporting this ministry and for your understanding as we continue on in these challenging times.

DAY SCHOOL REOPENING FOR SUMMER We are reopening on June 1st, following the guidelines for daycare programs. We're also still registering for our fall program that begins August 19th. Preference will be given to church members and families whose children have attended the school or are attending now. We have made a few changes and additions to our services that hopefully will fit into most families' schedules and help our students get the most out of our programs. The registration fee is waived for registered members of First St. John. See our website at www.firststjohndayschool.org for detailed information, and feel free to contact Andrea Buckley at 419-691-6480 with any further questions.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES: We are delivering these to your homes, in person. Please note that because several of the directories had ink-smudged covers, we will be sending those back and getting replacements. This means we currently do not have enough for everyone. We will notify you when we get our replacements. Thank you for your continued patience!

GENEALOGY RESEARCH: In order to limit the number of people in our building this summer, we regret that we cannot accommodate any genealogy research within the building, i.e., no browsing through the historical church records. Again, thank you for your understanding.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION POSTPONED: We have postponed our annual recognition of our graduates until a later date. We will continue to collect your achievements via the graduate recognition forms found in the newsletter, bulletin and sometimes the announcements. You can mail these to the church or scan and email your information to office@firststjohn.com Thanks for your understanding.

HELP WANTED - MINISTER OF YOUTH AND FAMILY: First St. John Lutheran and Martin Luther Lutheran churches are looking for a faithful, talented disciple of Jesus Christ to fill a new position as Minister of Youth and Family at First St. John and who will also act as spiritual leader at Martin Luther. This will be a shared staffing position between the two congregations. This person will demonstrate a life of faith in Jesus Christ and of active discipleship. The candidate should be an energetic self-starter with a passion for young people, with a goal of working for the youths' well-being and faith development in discovering their path of discipleship. The Minister of Youth and Family is responsible for assisting the church in planning, coordinating and promoting the youth programs of the church as well as special youth projects, assignments and events. This person needs a proven ability to relate well to young people and their families from diverse backgrounds and have an understanding of the complexities of the challenges facing them. The candidate should have experience organizing and leading effective youth activities with proven positive outcomes.

This person needs to be able to prepare and lead worship services at Martin Luther, providing leadership and insight for the congregation, focusing on building the congregation and their outreach within the community, in addition to ministering to the sick and shut-ins. Previous experience as a church leader and youth worker or a person who has or is working toward a degree in church work is preferred. The position will begin asap. Salary is competitive, based on qualifications and experience. For further information and a complete job description, please contact Pastor Jerald Rayl at 567-395-0143, or email at pastor1@firststjohn.com, or on our website at www.firststjohn.com.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

With the uncertainty of our church service schedule at this time, we may have to postpone our graduate recognition until a later date. But we will begin to collect our graduate's information now.

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please complete this form and either mail or email (office@firststjohn.com) it to the church. If you email the information, you don't need the form, unless you have scanning capability at home. Thanks!

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):
