“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

 **Matthew 2: 1-2**

 *Wishing you hope, love, joy and peace this Christmas Season.*

*St. John’s Office Staff*

Pastor Matt Wheeler

 Karen Schwochow **Sue Lawrence**

**Mike Smith Maury Gnepper Josh Smith**

John & Betsy Roberts

**St. John’s News-January 2025**

***January Birthdays-*** Jack Hineline, Becky Humbert, David Kidd, Morgan Harris, Ann Weickert, Hannah Wheeler, Levi Wheeler, Becky Wise, Vernon Nitschke, Sam Havens, Nancy Goodman, Avery Hirt,

Channing Stevenson, Callen Tooman, Case Stevenson, Alisha King, Jami Hineline, Phil Willis, Diane Fritz, Keisa Schwochow, Joy Marsh, Betty Kusmer, Wayne Wensinger, Brenda Russell.

***Anniversaries-*** Kevin & Jodi Stevenson, Nathan & Mallory Zucker.

**LUTHER LUNCH BUNCH** will not meet in **January.** You are encouraged to attend the Soup Luncheon on Sunday, **January 12th** following the 10:30 AM Service. We will sign cards there.

**ST. JOHN’S WEATHER POLICY**-

\*If ***School is closed*** due to weather- *all Youth activities are cancelled.*

\*If Sandusky County is under a **Level 2**- ***the Office is closed, all activities are cancelled****.*

\*If the county is under **Level 3**- there will be

***No Worship Services****.*

**WOMEN’S NEWS-**

Thanks for your generous support during our Thankoffeing Sunday- We collected **$**569 for the Thankoffering WELCA Fund and Katie’s Fund collection $245.77. All was sent to Churchwide Women of the ELCA.

**Our Quilt Raffle Results-** Congratulations to our winners! OSU was Cindy Tooman; U of M was Ken and Marlene Olsen. Thank you to all who supported our OSU / UofM lap quilt raffle in conjunction with our Youth's Buckeye sale. The quilt raffle raised $265. $200 was donated to our St. John's Youth Fund. $65 went to the sewing ladies for supplies and/or next fall's LWR quilt shipping.

**ALTAR CARE TEAM**

*From Brenda Hetrick-* A very heartfelt thank you to the long-time members and to the new members who have joined our team. I am so grateful for your participation in this deeply meaningful ministry of our church. *“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” II Corinthians 4:5.* May God’s peace and blessing be upon each one of you as you diligently serve our Lord and our congregation.

**JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER!!**

***January 2nd*** – No Worship Service

***January 8th*** - 6:00 PM-Church Council

***January 12th***- Soup Luncheon following 2nd Service

***January 28th*** -7:00 PM-Thirsty Theologians

*\*\*The Church Office will be open from 8:00-Noon during the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day.*

Don’t Miss our Soup Luncheon!!

The Women of the Church will be hosting a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, **January 12th**, following the 10:30 AM Service

**The Menu includes**:

Chili, Potato or Cauliflower Soup

Bread & Desserts

We hope everyone can join us!!

 \*\*A Freewill offering will be received.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

No Sunday School: December 29- Classes resume: January 5th

Thanks go to:

* Those who helped with “Breakfast in Bethlehem”. It went very well!
* Church Council who purchased the candy for the children this Christmas.
* All who helped or participated in the Children’s Christmas program. Your kids are great to work with!
* To: Karen, Chad, Keisa, Josh & Pastor Matt for all their help with the Youth, and anyone else I am missing.
* A special shout out to the older youth who are always willing to help in various ways.
* Those who donated for the” Mitten Tree.” Many compliments have been received.

**\*\*A BIG THANK YOU TO THE KRAAK FAMILY FOR DECORATING THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS!!**

***From Bette Kaltenbach-* A huge thank you to the 40 adults and 25 youth and family ringers who shared over 24 hours ringing the bells for Salvation Army this Christmas season.  The contents of those red buckets remain in Sandusky County to help those in need throughout the year. Your generosity was appreciated.**

The RedCross will host a Blood Drive here at St. John’s on Saturday, December 28th from 8:00 -12:30 PM. To schedule an appointment please call 1-800-RED CROSS.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES-**

 4:00 PM- Family Christmas Eve Service

 10:30 PM- Traditional Candlelight Service

 *(Special Music begins at 10:00 PM)*

There will be **no Worship Services** here at St. John’s on Thursday, **December 26th**, Sunday, **December 29th**, and Thursday, **January 2nd**.

**December 29th** -A LIFT Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at Trinity UMC-204 N. Wayne Street.

The Church Office will be opened from 8:00-Noon the week between Christmas and New Year’s.



**LIFT NEWS: Jan. ‘25**

*LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a collaboration of congregations in the Fremont area, including Faith, Grace, St. John’s, and St. Mark Lutheran Churches and Hayes Memorial UMC. Our mission priorities are: Being present in the community, witnessing to God’s love, hearing the needs, serving our neighbor, and striving for justice*.

**LIFT Weekly Email**

If you are interested in receiving the weekly LIFT email, please visit liftchurches.org. Once you scroll down the first page, you’ll see a box to sign up for emails. Thank You!