



# The Voice

## December 2020



### Happy Birthday

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Gloria Hahn    | 18- Erica Hollopeter |
| 4 - John Mutzner   | 21- Betty Hollopeter |
| 10- Linda Morrow   | 22- John Longenecker |
| 13- Ted Davis      | 23- Grace Shively    |
| 15- Helen Kellar   | 24- Jim Larson       |
| 16- Richard Hahn   | 25- Roger Colby      |
| 18- Carol Forsythe |                      |

"Peace on Earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day."

*-Helen Steiner Rice*

#### Member Spotlight: Gloria Hahn



Methodist Church in Greenville where she sang in the choir.

Gloria was born in Athens, Ohio in 1940, but her family moved to Greenville when she was about one year old. She had only two older sisters, but when she was six, both sisters moved out to California to live with their father. Gloria enjoyed spending her summers with aunts and uncles on their farm. She attended the Evangelical United

When Gloria was a teenager, she went to work at the central drug store and the hospital. Then, she got a job working at National Cash Register (NCR) in Dayton where she worked for six years and loved every minute of it.

One Sunday afternoon, Gloria was on a date, and when her date went inside the store to buy a couple cokes, she noticed a guy winking at her on the other side of the car. When her date came back out, she told him about the guy winking at her. He said, "Don't worry about him. That's just Dick Hahn!" About a year later, they were married! On August 13, 1961, Pastor Stadler married Gloria and Dick at St. John's in Covington.

Dick and Gloria had their first son, Mark, in 1963, and in 1972, they had their second son, Matthew Lee. Gloria also had a daughter, Cynthia, from a previous marriage. Mark and his family now live near Cleveland. Matthew and his wife live in Naples, Florida. Cindy now lives near Cincinnati with her daughter. Altogether, Gloria has eight grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, and even a few great great grandchildren!

Gloria began attending church at St. John's with Dick when they were dating. She taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School, and she attended the Ladies' Aide Group. Their sons, Mark and Matthew, were also baptized at St. John's.

In 1968, Gloria went back to work delivering the *Stillwater Valley Advertiser*, which she continued for forty years. In 1991, Gloria started working at the post office in Bradford, and continued working there for twenty years. She worked for ten years as a sub and then ten years as a full-time employee before retiring in 2011.

In her free time, Gloria enjoys watching sports on television. She loves **all** sports. She and Dick also enjoy going to auctions on Saturdays. Until this year, they have also enjoyed travelling. They have been to Missouri, California, Colorado, Michigan, and Florida, to name a few.

As a long-time member of St. John's, Gloria has remained with us because of the people. She says she can't get over how many of our beloved members we have lost in recent years. She has missed coming to church since March, and looks forward to being able to come back safely.

## PRAYER LIST

### **HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERING AT HOME, and OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS**

Freda Smith-Miami Valley		Jack Besecker
Darla Brumfield	Roger Colby	Marian Fenner
Judy Fletcher	Keith Fletcher	Kristin Gephart
Sally Griffin	Matthew Hahn	Erica Hollopeter
Leon Hollopeter	Ann Horman	Linda Iddings
Helen Kellar	Bill McKibben	Jim Perry
Harold Roeth	Luella Roeth	Jerry Schroeder
Uta Schroder	Kathy Short	

### **IN EXTENDED CARE**

Linda Morrow (Cincinnati)  
Barb Besecker (Versailles Health Care Center)

### **FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS**

Paula Hahn (daughter-in-law of Richard & Gloria Hahn)  
Larry & Tracy Laub (friend of Jim Perry)  
Bernice Davis (cousin of Jim Perry)  
Jack McCoy (friend of King family)  
Bridget Simon (friend of Jim Perry)  
Bill Sherer (father of Briana King)  
Howard Chaney (friend of Jim Perry)  
Kathy Bless (friend of Laura Schmidt)  
Mary Brady (friend of Laura Schmidt)  
Gary Holfinger (son of Opal Holfinger)  
Bob Bruyere (uncle of Charlie Bruyere)  
Joan Will (cancer-aunt of Laura Schmidt)  
Owen Gauntt (friend of Dawn Flory)  
Darlene Wise (friend of Jim Perry)  
Michelle Davis (friend of Brooks King)  
Jeff Gowen (friend of Jim Perry)  
Pattie Stover (friend of Brooks King)  
Toni Riley (friend of Mindy Gearhardt)  
Joel Miller (Connie Adams' brother-in-law)  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burlieson (friends of Jim Perry)  
Asher Cantrell (grandson of Stephanie Wood)  
Joanne Schmidt (mother of Jim Schmidt)  
Kenton Stacy (grandson of Wanda Stacy)  
Michael Laub & Family (friends of Jim Perry)



### **FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE ARMED FORCES**

Faith King- Army- Bravo 1-134<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Piqua, OH  
(niece of Brooks and Briana King)  
Brandon Moyer – Navy, Pyndell AFB, Florida  
Jon Osterman- Army  
Cory Purvis- Army, Alaska (Pattie Perry's grandson)  
LT Mary Strade- USS Bainbridge- deployed (sister of Laura Schmidt)  
Tristin Stangel- Marines, New River Air Station, North Carolina

## **SCRIPTURE**

### Sunday, December 6, 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-11  
**Psalm:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (13)  
**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

### Sunday, December 13, 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
**Psalm:** Psalm 126 (3) or  
Luke 1:46b-55 (52)  
**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

### Sunday, December 20, 2020

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11,  
Luke 1:46b-55 (52) or  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (1)  
**Second Reading:** 16 Romans 16:25-27  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

### Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7  
**Psalm:** Psalm 96 (11)  
**Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

### Sunday, December 27, 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:  
**Psalm:** Psalm 148 (13)  
**Second Reading:** 3Galatians 4:4-7  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40



12-20  
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**“Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping.”**



Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Despite the pandemic and the impact it has had on all of us, time keeps marching on. We stand at the doorstep of the Advent season followed by Christmas and our celebration of the Christ-child. As of this writing, we are planning on holding the typical services for these seasons in person.

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. It connects the first coming of Jesus, His birth as a human baby, to His second coming at the end of time. In Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christmas while also being reminded that He **IS** coming again and that we need to be ready and watching!

Soon, we will gather around the Advent Wreath both in worship and in many of our homes. There are any number of traditional themes associated with the wreath such as the Bethlehem, shepherds, magi, and angel candles and many others. For this year, I have chosen these themes: HOPE, COMFORT, PEACE and JOY.

On the First Sunday in Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup>, as we light the first candle, we will briefly focus on the theme HOPE. Then on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, our evening worship will be built on the theme of HOPE.

- HOPE Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> (First Sunday in Advent) and Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday Evening Advent Service)
- COMFORT Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> (Second Sunday in Advent) and Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday Evening Advent Service)
- PEACE Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> (Third Sunday in Advent) and Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday Evening Advent Service)
- JOY Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> (Fourth Sunday in Advent) and Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday Evening Advent Service)

Our mid-week services begin at 7:00 p.m. and will last about 25-30 minutes. I realize how busy our lives are, but I hope we can pause and take a breath during the week for these services.

Our services in December will include the Children's Program scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> during our worship time.

Christmas Eve on the 24<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. and will include Holy Communion and the traditional lighting of the candles.

On the 27<sup>th</sup>, we will worship with Lessons and Carols.

I know how important it is that we be careful doing these things, but if you are healthy, I hope you can join us for these special worship opportunities, with masks on and hearts filled with celebration at the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Peace and blessings to all,  
Pastor Jon



## Simply Give and COA Christmas

“Simply Give” is going on at Meijer. Through this program, you can purchase Meijer Simply Give donation cards in increments of \$10. Once purchased, Meijer will match the \$10 donation and then convert it into a Meijer food-only (plus diapers) gift card which is donated directly to the Covington Outreach Association. The **BEST** time to do this is on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> because on those specific dates, Meijer will “double match” the donation, turning a \$10 donation into a \$30 donation. The program will run through January 2, 2012, and cards can be found at kiosks in the store.



The Covington Outreach Association is also once again hosting the annual Christmas Program. However, it must be different this year. Due to Covid concerns, they will not be having community members purchase gifts for the children. Instead, they are asking for monetary donations. Please send monetary donations to:

Annie Harrison  
COA Interim Director  
P.O. Box 125  
Covington, OH 45318

Finally, volunteers are needed for assembling food boxes to be delivered to families in need. Boxes will be assembled the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>. If interested, please email Annie Harrison at [director@covingtonoutreach.org](mailto:director@covingtonoutreach.org).

## It's Poinsettia Time!

### Help Decorate your Church!



This year's poinsettias are \$8 and are coming from Joanie's Floral Designs.

To order, enclose the following order blank with your check made out to out to: "St. John's Lutheran Church", notating it "poinsettias". Please place this order blank and payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Also, please indicate the appropriate sentiment, which will be reflected in the "Poinsettia Christmas Dedication Page". Orders will be taken until December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Plants may be picked up AFTER the Christmas Eve service  
on December 24, 2020.

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of check: \_\_\_\_\_

Sentiment: \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the glory of God:  (check here)



## SOCIAL MINISTRY

We will be assembling Christmas bags for our shut-ins to be delivered on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Monetary donations for Christmas bags, can be made through December 13<sup>th</sup> and can be given to any committee member: Brandy Hahn, Briana King, Kris Davis, Ann Horman, Mary Ann Hensler, or Betty Hollopeter; or you can place your donation in your offering envelope. Under "Other", write the monetary amount and indicate that it is for Christmas Bags.

As always, we thank you for your generous support of this important ministry.

## The Story Behind "Silent Night"

Written by Susan Lewis, December 15, 2019

It's a song about a calm and bright silent night, and the wonder of a tender and mild newborn child, words written in 1816 by a young priest in [Oberndorf,] Austria [pictured below], Joseph Mohr, not long after the Napoleonic wars had taken their toll.



"The backstory is that the priest went for a walk before he wrote it, and he looked out over a very quiet, winter-laden town," says composer/conductor **John Conahan**, who has organized the **Silent Night Sing-In**, and has created a new arrangement of the famous carol. "He was inspired...the town was at peace."

It was Christmas Eve, 1818, when the now-famous carol was first performed as *Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht*. Joseph Mohr, the young priest who wrote the lyrics, played the guitar and sang along with Franz Xaver Gruber, the choir director who had written the melody.

An organ builder and repairman working at the church took a copy of the six-verse song to his home village. There, it was picked up and spread by two families of traveling folk singers, who performed around northern Europe. In 1834, the Strasser family performed it for the King of Prussia. In 1839, the Rainer family of singers debuted the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City.

The composition evolved, and was translated into over 300 languages with many different arrangements for various voices and ensembles. It was sung in churches, in town squares, even on the battlefield during World War I, when, during a temporary truce on Christmas Eve, soldiers sang carols from home. "Silent Night," by 1914, known around the world, was sung simultaneously in French, German, and English.

Over the years, the carol's mystique grew with its popularity. After the original manuscript was lost, for decades, some speculated that the music had been written by Haydn, Mozart, or Beethoven. In 1994, an original manuscript was found in Mohr's handwriting, with Gruber named as composer.

Today, the Franz Xaver Gruber Museum in Hallein and the Joseph Mohr School in Wagrain, Austria honor the creators of this classic carol. The Stille Nacht Gesellschaft—or Silent Night Society—hosts a virtual Silent Night museum, tracks events, and promotes the use of all six verses, which in the words of Silent Night Society president "[encourage] peace and [demand] responsibility for the globe."

<https://www.wrti.org/post/story-behind-beloved-christmas-carol-silent-night>, Accessed November 28, 2020

# Youth!

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Special Meeting- Church Council Minutes  
November 3, 2020

We regret that out of an abundance of caution, we had to postpone the skating party. Please plan to join us when a new date is chosen. We will also reschedule the bowling party from spring! We will have joyous fellowship when we are able.

Congratulations to Ryan Rohr who was named Offense Special mention in the CCC. Ryan is a sophomore at Covington High School.

Congratulations to Cody Rohr whose Covington Little Buccs won the Super Bowl!

Please plan to join us on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> for a toned-down, yet **spectacular** Christmas program featuring our youth! It will be held during our worship time, so join in person or online. No matter how you choose to watch, it is a great way to prepare for the Christ child.

We welcomed Nessa Fay Hahn into the baptized family of Christ on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Nessa is the daughter of Levi and Brandy Hahn and sister of Tyrus. We are overjoyed to have celebrated with you and your extended family!



Looking into 2021, as we come out of our COVID fog, please begin to think of a project you might have in mind that the youth could help with in order give back to the community. Do you have some yard work, organizing, assembling, etc.? Let us help you. Please contact Laura Schmidt.

Present: David Larson, Holly Turner, Scott Gephart, Mindy Gearhardt, Brandy Hahn, Kevin Marten, Derrek Shively  
Absent: Kaitlyn Flory, Chad Reese

1. Kevin called the meeting to order and led us in prayer.
2. A motion was made by Dave, and seconded by Mindy, that the council adopt the following continuing resolution:

“That St. John’s Lutheran Church hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2020 in person and electronically by Zoom for those members who cannot participate in person. The meeting shall be conducted as follows:

1. All members shall receive notice as required in the constitution and bylaws of this congregation.
2. As part of the notice, printed ballots on all issues requiring a written or secret ballot shall be enclosed. There shall be sufficient ballots for the number of confirmed members of the household where the notice is sent. Copies of the budget and any other measures where information is provided in writing shall be included with the notice.
3. Members who are able to participate by video shall be permitted to log in, and required to identify themselves by name and the number of confirmed members participating on their computer.
4. Members who are not able to participate by video shall be permitted to participate by telephone through a telephone call-in number provided by Zoom. They shall be required to identify themselves by name and give the number of confirmed members participating on their telephone.
5. For votes not requiring a written ballot, members shall vote by voice. A true count shall be obtained by the counters of the yeas, nays, and abstentions (if any).
6. For votes requiring a written or secret ballot, members may vote as follows:
  - a. Completed ballots may be returned to the church by U.S. Mail by November 14, 2020. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted.
  - b. Completed ballots may also be dropped in a locked drop box outside of the church office by 12:00 pm (noon) on November 14, 2020. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted. If coming into the church or to the church office, all COVID safety protocols must be followed.
  - c. Completed ballots may be scanned to the church office email at

secretarystjohnscov@windstream.net by 12:00 pm (noon) on November 14, 2020. Ballots received after that date and time shall not be counted.

7. Results of all written ballots shall be announced after worship the following Sunday.
  8. The presiding officer at the meeting shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, and all bylaws and continuing resolutions of the congregation.
  9. Minutes shall be taken by the council secretary. Any person who speaks during the meeting must identify themselves at the beginning of their remarks, motions, or questions so that the council secretary may keep an accurate record of the meeting.
  10. This continuing resolution shall supersede and replace any previous continuing resolution adopted by this council to the extent necessary to implement these provisions."
3. Roll call vote (two-thirds of quorum of council must be in favor to pass): 7 yea, 0 nay. Motion carried.
  4. Adjournment – Holly moves to adjourn, seconded by David. The council closes with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by,  
Holly Turner

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Church Council Minutes  
November 11, 2020

Present: Kevin Marten, Mindy Gearhardt, David Larson, Scott Gephart, Holly Turner, Chad Reese, Brandy Hahn, Derrek Shively, Pastor Jon Schriber  
Absent: Kaitlyn Flory

1. Devotions – Devotions were led by Pastor Jon
2. Pastor's Report – 4 worship services were led, 22 phone visits, 6 in person visits including 2 private communion and 3 meetings. David moved to accept the Pastor's Report, seconded by Brandy. Motion carried.
3. Financial Report – Showing a profit of \$34,208.77 for year-to-date. Again, this is due to not paying a full-time pastor. There were some payments that went out for the upgrades in the church office. Mindy moves to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Chad. Motion carried.
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Social Ministry – Veteran's Day activities were held this past Sunday. Veterans were given a care package for veterans. The committee is getting ready for Christmas care packages.
  - b. Evangelism – Dave asked the council for some suggestions on how to proceed for outreach since we will not have any food and a mission.
  - c. Property – Kone Elevator (company we use for our elevator) sent a letter about maintenance on the

elevator. The property committee will look more into this and discuss which items need to be done.

5. Old Business
  - a. Videoing services – Videoing seems to be going well. Eventually we will get some more members trained.
  - b. Call Update – Council is working on paperwork to send to the Synod. Ballots are still being received till Saturday for the voting on the pastoral candidate.
  - c. Safety Procedures – Council discussed about the increase in positive cases along with the governor's press conference. We will require masks to be worn except for Pastor when he is talking or the lector or assisting minister when they are speaking. Council wants to ensure the safety of our members.
6. New Business
  - a. Services
    - i. Advent – as long we are able to have church services, advent services will go on at planned.
    - ii. Christmas Eve – Council discussed the possibility of having 2 services due to limited seating, however it could be difficult if everyone still came to a certain service. Council will discuss this more at the December meeting.
    - iii. Lessons & Carols – will have one person read the lessons instead of multiple people reading the lessons.
  - b. Office supplies – Stephanie suggested getting new supplies for Rachel and council approved.
  - c. Visual Presentations – Council discussed getting updated screens and/or projector for future use. The current screen is extremely difficult to set up and take down.
7. Adjournment – Holly moves to adjourn, seconded by Mindy. Motion carried. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Holly Turner

