



# The Voice

## November 2020



With sadness, the Covington Ministerial Association made the difficult decision NOT to have the annual Thanksgiving Community Service and Meal this year.

### Happy Birthday

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 4 - Tiffany Shively | 20- Belinda Perry  |
| 5 - Jeff Shively    | 21- Andy Shaffer   |
| 11- Carlene Kiehl   | 24- Deb Weikert    |
| 13- Bill McKibben   | 25- DeAnn Osterman |
| 17- Bryce Gephart   | 27- Uta Schroeder  |

" Unanswered prayer can be confusing for us, but not for Him. He knows what we don't and sees what we don't. And on the Last Day, when we know what He knows, we'll accuse Him of nothing but being faithful."

-Garrett Kell

### Member Spotlight: Diane Schmidt



Lutheran Churches! When she was in high school, there

Diane Schmidt recently came to our congregation from Elyria, Ohio. She grew up in North Dakota in a mostly Norwegian Scandinavian community. She says that she thought everyone ate lutefisk and lefse. She grew up in a Lutheran church called Kindered Lutheran. She says that the little town in which she grew up had twelve

was a united Luther League among all the churches, and the children would attend a different church every week.

After graduating from high school, Diane went to Concordia College. She majored in German and English and pursued a music major as well. Diane played piano, organ, guitar, French horn, and melodica. Diane taught English, speech, and drama for three years in Minnesota, eight years in South Dakota, and seven years in Kansas.

In 1975, while Diane was teaching in South Dakota, she met her husband, Dennis, in a little laundromat. She was wearing a sweatshirt from a Lutheran retreat village. Dennis was a Lutheran pastor, and she says that sweatshirt was like "honey to a bee". In 1978, they were married at a Bible camp because it was the only place big enough for the five hundred people at the wedding.

Diane and Dennis have two daughters, Sarah and Rachel. Rachel is a music teacher in Troy, and Sarah teaches English in Pennsylvania. They each have two children.

1994, the family moved from Kansas to Elyria, Ohio, where Dennis took a call, and Diane taught German and English for eighteen years in Wellington, Ohio.

In 1998, Dennis was called to serve the Luther church in Wittenburg, Germany for two weeks, so they spent a couple of months there. This was a wonderful experience for both of them because of Diane's German language.

In her free time, Diane enjoys writing poetry and music. She has written many choir arrangements for church choirs she has led. Diane enjoys reading writing family histories. She also likes to cook and try out new recipes.

Diane and Dennis were invited to St. John's by Preston King, who mows their lawn. They have decided to stay because they love the people and the music. They really enjoy singing with our wonderful organ. Diane and Dennis look forward to getting to know our congregation even more after the social distancing restrictions are lifted.

## PRAYER LIST

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

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

### **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)  
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)  
Jeff Gowen (friend of Jim Perry)  
Toni Riley (friend of Mindy Gearhardt)  
Joel Miller (Connie Adams' brother-in-law)  
John Hollenbacher (friend of Brooks King)  
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)  
Emily Thompson (niece of Stephanie Wood)



### **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, November 1, 2020

**First Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17  
**Psalm:** Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (9)  
**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:1-3  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-12

### Sunday, November 8, 2020

**First Reading:** Amos 5:18-24 or  
Wisdom 6:12-16 1  
**Psalm:** Psalm 70 (5) or  
Wisdom 6:17-20 (17)  
**Second Reading:** Thessalonians 4:13-18  
**Gospel:** Matthew 25:1-13

### Sunday, November 15, 2020

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
**Psalm:** Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (12)  
**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

### Sunday, November 22, 2020

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
**Psalm:** Psalm 95:1-7a (7)  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23  
**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

### Sunday, November 29, 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 64:1-9  
**Psalm:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
**Gospel:** Mark 13:24-37





Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Greetings to all and how in the world did we get to November? I'm not sure, but here we are. For St. John's, November is a month filled with special worship services as we journey in life and faith.

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate All Saints Day, remembering those who have been called before us to the Kingdom of God. Specifically, we will remember those of our congregation who have died since All Saints Day last year. In addition, we will have the opportunity to remember those from years past who are precious to us.

November 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the baptism of Nessa Fay Hahn as we also remember our baptism. Thanks to the work of the social committee, we will also recognize and honor our veterans. This will be a special part of the service.

November 25<sup>th</sup>, as the current church year comes to an end, we worship and celebrate Jesus as our King. On Christ the King Sunday, we acknowledge that Jesus is truly Lord of our life and King over all.

Finally, November 29<sup>th</sup>, the preparatory season of Advent begins. Once again, the Advent Wreath is brought out, and candles will be lit as we prepare ourselves for the Christmas celebration.

Then, of course, there is Thanksgiving, a day when many of us will gather with family, or at least some of our family. It is a time to remember that all good gifts come from the gracious hands of God. It is a time to reflect upon our blessings and share our bounty. For example, if you know of a person or a couple who will be alone, fix a plate and take to them: it might be more of a blessing than you realize.

Despite all the commercialism and focus on sales, the Thanksgiving focus is primarily a spiritual/religious festival. It has roots from the Bible, the Old Testament and the Israelites' remembrance of God's blessings. In our country, Thanksgiving grows out of the account of the Pilgrims thanking God for safe travels, new friends, and divine protection.

In that spirit, may our celebration be that of thanking God for all good gifts!

Happy Thanksgiving to all,  
Pastor Jon



## SOCIAL MINISTRY

On Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring all the men and women of our congregation who are veterans and thanking them for their service to this great country. This includes those of who watch o line as well.

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

Monetary donations for military packages and/or 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 if it is for Military or Christmas Bags.

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



# Youth!

We will be hosting our Annual Skating Party on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-9:30 pm at Skate 36. Pizza, drinks, and cookies will be provided. Bring your grandkids, nieces, nephews, and friends. Please sign up on the sheet on the back bulletin board or contact Laura Schmidt at 937-570-0034 or gardener03@yahoo.com to help plan for food for the evening.

***We are going to be following safety protocols. Please wear your mask entering and leaving the facility, when not skating or eating/drinking. Please use provided sanitizer and wash your hands. If you are not feeling well, please remain home.***



It's time to start planning for this year's Christmas program. The program is going to be on December 20, and rehearsals are going to start December 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board for anyone who wants to participate.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Cody Rohr! His Little Buccs team (5th/6th grade) is going to the Super Bowl!! Way to go CODY (#17)!



The Covington High School Varsity team with starter Ryan Rohr is advancing to the 3rd round of the State Championships! Amazing! Good Luck boys!

Cuinn Schmidt Rockey! Cuinn achieved her 5<sup>th</sup> Gup Temporary in karate. She earned it over the summer, but was recently awarded the certificate. Great job, Cuinn!



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Church Council Minutes  
October 7, 2020

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

1. Devotions – Devotions were led by Pastor Jon
2. Pastor's Report – Total visits – 19 (3 in person, 16 phone), 4 services, 2 meetings. David moves to accept Pastor's Report, seconded by Mindy. Motion carried.
3. Financial Report – Once again since we are not paying for a full-time pastor we are in the black. There is a charge that was an outlier for paying for repair for the copier. We have upgraded our Wi-Fi so that had also changed our budget a little. Brandy moves to accept the financial report, seconded by Chad. Motion carried.
4. Committee Report
  - a. Social Committee – The committee would like to start meeting again to start making cards, gathering items for the Veteran's Day Appreciation and to discuss other outreach opportunities.
5. Old Business
  - a. Videoing Services – The video recording services are set up. We will continue to use the phone for a back up to make sure all are able to view the service.
  - b. Safety Protocol Changes – Council discussed for the acolytes to move to a pew so they are socially distanced from the assisting minister. Council also discussed that if we get more people attending church in person we will need set up chairs in the overflow and in the Sunday school rooms upstairs.
6. New Business
  - a. Congregational Meeting
    - i. Budget – All staff will receive a 3% increase as per Synod guidelines. Mindy moves to recommend the proposed 2021 budget to church members to vote on at the Congregational meeting, seconded by Chad. Motion carried.
    - ii. Council Member Election – Council discussed possible council members
  - b. November Skating Party – Safety guidelines and protocols were discussed for the skating party. Laura has talked with the skating rink owners and those protocols will be in place for the party.
6. Adjournment – Holly moves to adjourn, seconded by Mindy. Motion carried. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Holly Turner