

# First St. John Journal

Volume 37, Issue 11

November, 2024

**A** 4-year-old boy was asked to give thanks before Thanksgiving dinner. His family bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited --and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

Another little boy found something unique to give thanks for. As his parents listened, he prayed, "And God bless Mommy and Daddy . . . and thank you for sending Jesus to wash away our sins . . . so that we can have new ones."

During November our minds turn to Thanksgiving, and we have much for which to be thankful. Yet, how easy it is to forget by taking for granted so many of the good gifts from God. In fact, it often seems that the more we have, the less gratitude we feel.

The story is told about a woman named Carol who decided she wanted to do something nice for her neighbor, Mrs. Jones, so she baked a pie and carried it next door. When Mrs. Jones opened her door, she was surprised to see Carol holding the pie. She replied, "For me? Oh, thank you so much! You just don't know how much I appreciate it! You are so thoughtful for doing this! Thank you!"

Because Mrs. Jones liked the pie so much, Carol decided the next week to bake her another one. When she took it over, Mrs. Jones opened the door and said, "Thank you so much. You are so kind!"

When she took another pie over the following week, Mrs. Jones simply replied, "Thanks." Carol took another pie over the next week and Mrs. Jones responded, "You are a day late with this pie."

The following week she baked her another pie. This time her neighbor said, "Try using a little more sugar and don't bake it quite as long. The crust has been a little bit hard lately. And I'd like cherry instead of apple filling next time."

The next week Carol was so busy, she was unable to cook for her neighbor. When Carol passed by her house on the way to the store, Mrs. Jones looked through the window and noticed she wasn't carrying a pie. She then stuck her head out the window and yelled, "Where's my pie?!"

It's so easy to get used to our blessings. After enjoying them for a while, we begin to think we deserve them. Then instead of being thankful, we start complaining. It's a process that occurs so slowly, we don't even realize it's happening. Our attitude has changed from being grateful to ungrateful.

Pastor and author Bruce Larson makes the point that true freedom comes in an attitude of gratitude" He add, "Gratitude is a freeing emotion. It allows one to see beauty in everyday situations. It springs from humility. People who expect the world to cater to them cannot be grateful. People who cannot be grateful are never satisfied. An attitude of gratitude often leads to contentment, and contentment goes hand in hand with inner peace and joy. So those who are not grateful are often lacking in inner peace and joy. The least grateful people are usually the loudest complainers."

Is it any wonder that the Bible contains over 250 verses that contain the word 'Thank' or some form such as 'Thanks' or 'Thanksgiving'. Is it any wonder that Martin Luther began both his morning prayer and evening prayer by saying; "I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son . . ."

So, whether it is November or September or June or July, what a wonderful way to derive the greatest benefit in faith and hope, then cultivating an attitude of gratitude.

~ Pastor Rayl



Daylight savings time ends November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.





## CIRCLE INFORMATION

The next women's board meeting is Monday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All are welcome.

**Ruth Circle Meeting:** Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the lounge.

**Miriam Circle Meeting:** Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the lounge

**Rebecca Circle:** will not meet in November, and will meet again until December for our Christmas Luncheon on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Old Bag of Nails at 11:30 am.

**Hannah Circle Meeting:** will meet on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Debbie Smith's home.

## NOVEMBER CRAFT SHOW CANCELLED

The craft show scheduled for Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm has unfortunately been cancelled. Please contact Karyl Antoine with any questions, 419-350-7040.



## FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST NEWS

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at the Woodville Diner. All are invited and we hope to see you there!



## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE: November 20<sup>th</sup>**

## ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	Bill Nelson Bob Hecklinger
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar	Ben Hodges Matt Miller
17 <sup>th</sup>	John Roth Dick Haar	Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy
24 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Nelson Bob Hecklinger	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow



## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

Our new and improved church website has launched! You can still find it at:

[WWW.FIRSTSTJOHN.COM](http://WWW.FIRSTSTJOHN.COM)

You can find all the previous information, including past bulletins and announcements, but also see information on all the groups our church has to offer. Please make sure to check it out!

Also, did you know that you can watch a livestream of our 10:30 am Sunday Service? You can find it by visiting [www.firststjohn.com/LIVE](http://www.firststjohn.com/LIVE).

You can also get there by using the Online Worship link in the middle of the home page or the top navigation ('Worship' then 'Online Worship') on any page.

Wow, that's easy and works on any device, please spread the word! If you encounter any issues, please let Jennifer in the church office know, office@firststjohn.com

A special thank you to Bob Kinsey, for all his hard-work getting our new and improved website up and running!

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing 419-691-7220, or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605. Email: [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## Cookie Sale!

WELCA is hosting a cookie sale fundraiser once again on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> after both services.

**Baked Goods Needed:** If you can help by donating cookies for our sale, we'd greatly appreciate your help! All types of cookies, fudge, bars, or bark accepted. Please plan to bring your baked cookies on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> between 10am-12pm. A sign up sheet will be in the bulletin and on a clipboard in the lounge. All leftover cookies will be taken to the residents across the street.



## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

Our November focus item is sanitary pads (24 pack or larger). You can deposit items in the bright green bin in the lounge or drop them off at the office during the week. Remember, monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you!



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars! The Family Christmas party will be held on December 1, 2024 in the gym. Fried baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and a roll with butter will be served. Karaoke will be the entertainment for the night. We will also hold a raffle basket auction that night. If anyone would like to donate an item, basket, or gift card for the auction please let Sue Ann Rodgers know, or drop it off in the church office.



## SCOUTING MINISTRY

We have officially begun meetings to plan for our FSJ Scouting Ministry. Mike Joseph (Mr. J) will be heading up our planning process. Meetings will be held each first Monday of the month at 7 pm in Room 204 (Catechism room) of the educational building. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We will then meet each first Monday of the following month at the same time and place. If any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-7583.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



### Births

None of which we are aware.

### Baptisms

10-27-24 Rhett Patrick Tyson  
*Son of Adam and Blair (Hardy) Tyson.*

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

10-24-24 Linda L. Hagedorn

### Transfers to/from First St. John

To FSJ: Bob & Ilia Kinsey

From FSJ: Amanda Spoerl  
Susan TenEyck



## SPECIAL MUSIC FUND

A special music fund was recently created specifically to support the talented musicians invited to play at our church. Money from this fund will be used at the discretion of Dr. Tony, our Church Musician, when securing guest musicians. To contribute, donate cash or checks made out to First St John Lutheran Church and simply indicate on your envelope and/or check memo line, that your contribution is to be directed to the Special Music Fund. We have been blessed over the years with many gifted musicians and it is wonderful to hear the church filled with sweet music. Please consider donating to continue this tradition!



## OCTOBER DARTBALL

The Dartball Season is underway with games hosted in the gym at 7 pm. All games start at 7:30pm. Upcoming dates for November are:

### November 4<sup>th</sup>:

St. Mark @ 1st St. John #1  
St. Lucas @ 1st St. John #2

### November 18<sup>th</sup>:

1st St. John #1 @ St. Petri  
1st St. John #2 @ St. Mark

Please mark your calendars. If any questions, reach out to Bill Nelson (419) 836-4165, or Bob Haar (419) 250-9409.

## **FIRST ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN** **(as of 10/30/2024)**

### **Crisis Prayer List**

*For those individuals who need our prayers in urgent matters such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the chronic list after one month unless a prayer chain contact is notified:*

**Angela**  
**Peggy Burke**  
**Carol Crosser**  
**Doris**  
**Ann Dudics**  
**Duke**  
**Norman Eck**  
**Martha Everett**  
**Family of Linda L. Hagedorn**  
**Linda (Stieben) Hagedorn**  
**Jody**  
**Kaitlyn**  
**Sharon Kassay**  
**Deborah Kidwell**  
**Kaylea Kochanski**  
**Rebecca Kohn**  
**Helen K.**  
**Paul Lambrecht**  
**Marc LeDuc**  
**Rick & Judy Lepiarz**  
**Diana McGovern**  
**Angel Miller**  
**Chad Milner**  
**Sue Moszkowicz**  
**John Puhl**  
**Shonna**  
**Skylar**  
**June Smarkel**  
**Marilyn Ulrich**  
**Steve Welling**  
**Dave Wilbarger Sr.**  
**Arlene Wilbarger**  
**Donna Winslow**  
**LeAnn Winslow**  
**Anne Zielinski**

### **Ongoing Concerns Prayer List**

*For those individuals who need our prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles and recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after three months unless a prayer chain contact has been notified:*

**Deb Ackerman**  
**Bennett**  
**Elizabeth Bland**  
**Karen Bless**  
**Amy Brumley**  
**Debbie Campbell**  
**Brenda Chambers**  
**Marjorie Counterman**

**Dick Crouse**  
**Olivia & Delaney Dawkins**  
**Brian Everett**  
**Janet Fern**  
**Joe Frobase**  
**Grace Harris Greenbank**  
**Holly Henneman**  
**Gary Henningsen**  
**Katrin Howard**  
**Kathy Johnson**  
**Linda Joshi**  
**Cindy Knavel**  
**Tom Kohn**  
**Eleanor Lang**  
**Darlene Lorenzen**  
**Tina McQuilin**  
**Bonnie Meier**  
**Patty Meyer**  
**Deborah Miller**  
**Donna Miller**  
**Mary Bell Moore**  
**Karen Morrison**  
**Logan Murphy**  
**Nick**  
**Teresa Nye**  
**Pam Pirolli**  
**Janet Quiroga**  
**John Ranchan**  
**Sherry Reamsnyder**  
**Laura Scherer**  
**Mary Alice Sheehan**  
**Bill Shedron**  
**Connie Singlar**  
**Jim Sommers Jr**  
**James Spenthoff**  
**Julie Swanson**  
**Tom Tedrow**  
**Joyce Trowbridge**  
**Terry Vogalsang**  
**Deb Dusseau Warnke**  
**Katelyn Weirich**  
**Jean Wilson**  
**John Yard**  
**Ruth Zasada**  
**Raetta Zeisler**  
**Bernie Zielinski**

*Check the list and let a prayer chain contact know if someone can be moved off the list.*

### **Prayer Chain Contacts**

**Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or**  
**cabbeyrn@aol.com**  
**Lynn Folk 419-309-7977**  
**Donna Koehn 419-705-9560**  
**Darlene Lorenzen 419-351-6293**  
**Gloria Ross 419-836-7166**



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The deadline to turn in your boxes is Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Empty boxes with labels inside are in the lounge, and the narthex (lobby). No candy, liquids, toothpaste, war-related toys, or breakable items. You can bring your box to worship or drop it off during the week. There is a \$10 suggested donation towards shipping if you are able to include in your box but not required. Envelopes are available near the boxes in the lounge and narthex. Questions? Call Deb Ladd at 419-250-1460. Please help us share God's love with children around the world this Christmas.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !***

The Day School's Thanksgiving Feasts will be held November 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have time and would like to help prepare and serve the meal, volunteers are appreciated. We need help each day from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Please call the school office at 419-691-6480 if you can help, even if it's only for an hour.

The children help prepare the food, which includes "stone soup." What a great opportunity to mingle with school families and give them a glimpse of the friendly atmosphere of First St. John!

### **DAY SCHOOL NEWS**



The holiday season will soon begin, and we are busy at the Day School with holiday parties and events. The students are working hard learning their holiday songs and practicing for their Thanksgiving Feasts and Christmas programs. As the school year progresses, each student is learning new things and enjoying new friends and experiences.

Each November the children and families gather together for our annual Thanksgiving Feasts. If you have time and would like to help prepare and serve during our Thanksgiving Feasts, volunteers are needed and appreciated. Help is needed Monday through Friday (November 18-21) between the hours of 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Please call the school office at 419-691-6480 if you are interested.

— *Andrea Buckley*

## **2024 POINSETTIA SALE**

*Sponsored by the Altar Guild*

Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship at Christmas time. You can place this form with payment in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office during the week, or mail it in. Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to: **First St. John Lutheran Church**

**Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 15, 2024.**

No. of plants @ \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Color (circle one):    **Red**    **White**

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WELCA NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving!

We have so much to be thankful for and are very Blessed.

The Board met on October 21<sup>st</sup> in the Lounge. Emily Kruse joined us with some good ideas. We need more women of the church to join us for their input. Darlene Lorenzen joined us by phone.

We ordered 16 much needed chairs to replace worn and broken ones in the lounge. The total price was \$1,684.16 We received approval from all of the Circles, and all approved. Waiting to hear from Dave Wilbarger to see if the Council would be willing to pay half.

The Christmas Party will be December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:50 - 8 pm. Karaoke is going to be the fun part of the evening. Fried Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Salad, Roll and Butter will be the menu. Remember our Basket Auction will be that night and you will take the basket you bid on home that night. All circles, choir, altar guild, WELCA, and any of the congregation that would like to make a Basket or Donate an item or Gift Card s is welcome. Baskets for children are also recommended.

Our Cookie Sale will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> after both services in the lounge, Cookies can be brought in on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am till 12 pm. The left over Cookies will be taken over to the residents across the street.

The carpet in the lounge will be cleaned during Christmas and New Year, while the Day School is on break.

Our next Meeting will be November 18<sup>th</sup> in the Lounge at 6:30 pm. All Women of the Church are invited.

— President, Sue Ann Rogers

## CANDY CRAWL UPDATE

God provided a beautiful, warm day for the Candy Crawl, and our congregation made sure we had plenty of treats to share with the community! About 240+ cars , averaging 2-4 children per car. A huge thank you to our congregation for always backing our projects. We are truly blessed.



## WINTER COAT DRIVE!

We are collecting for The East Toledo Family Center's winter coat and gear drive this year. They are especially looking for new or gently used coats (working zippers please) as last collection season the demand was higher than they were able to fulfill. They will also take new hats, and gloves. A collection bin is located in the lounge. The collection will take place from now until **November 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

### WE REMEMBER...

All Saints Sunday is November 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will remember the saints of First St. John who entered the Church Triumphant during the past year:

Eleanor Cochenour	06/15/1931 - 12/21/2023
Carolyn J. Schwierking	07/04/1929 - 12/22/2023
Arvina P. Hager	07/18/1940 - 03/16/2024
Gregory A. Contat	11/20/1961 - 03/29/2024
Phyllis A. Sabin	04/07/1930 - 04/14/2024
Henry K. Schumaker	01/22/1933 - 04/20/2024
Joanne M. Schumaker	09/11/1933 - 05/14/2024
Ruth Ziethlow	02/06/1928 - 07/03/2024
Thomas G. Hartford Sr.	04/25/1946 - 08/06/2024
Linda L. Hagedorn	06/06/1947 - 10/24/2024

*And we also remember  
these friends & family members:  
(as received by time of printing)*

Ken & Lola Abbey, Joan & Dick Bailey, Mary Batchman, Ernie Bollinger, Judith Cervantes, Richard Counterman, Gary DeWitt, Jean DeWitt, Kenneth DeWitt, Dolores Dipner, Shirley Dipner, Herbert Frey, William Fulton, Nancy Gallaher, Paulette S. Giaimo, Barbara Nissen Gilbertson, Clarence & Iva Grant, Larry Grant, Floyd Hagedorn, JoAnn Harrell, Jim Hecklinger, Delores Heilman, Everly Mae Heineman, Marcia Henninger, Gonzalo Herrera, Joyce Koester-Martin, Rev. Gerald & Ilean Labuhn, Emanuel Lanzon, Theresa Lanzon, Janet Mooney, Paul Muller Sr., Chuck Neal, Abraham Rivera, Logan Roberts, Andrea Schumaker, Edward Schwierking, Tim Smith, Louise Sommers, William Stahl, Peggy Torda, David Winslow, Sharon Winslow, William Winslow, Kenneth Yard.

## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY OCTOBER UPDATE

In October, we served 138 adults and 65 children. 15 FSJ volunteers donated 30 hours of time this past month to make sure the pantry ran smoothly. We had a great month of donations due to Misson Sunday and a generous donation from the Perrysburg Rowing Team. On average, it is costing us \$330/week to fund the pantry so every donation helps!

### OCTOBER STATS:

**\$1,070 - TOTAL PRODUCT DONATIONS**  
**\$1,675 - TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS**  
**203 - TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED**  
**15 - TOTAL VOLUNTEERS**  
**30 - VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
**2,275- TOTAL PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED**  
**\$1,642 - TOTAL COST TO FUND PANTRY THIS MONTH**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED ITEMS OR TIME! WE ARE SERVING AN IMPORTANT NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY!**



### LAYETTE MINISTRY COLLECTION

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are collecting baby care items to make up kits that will be sent to needy families. If you would like to donate, there

will be a collection box in the lounge, or you can bring them to the church office. Here are the items we need:

- lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies) \*
  - long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) \*
  - receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light weight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
  - cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
  - jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap \*
  - pairs of socks
  - hand towel, dark color recommended
  - bath size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)
  - diaper pins or large safety pins
- \* **Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months**



## **START A DEVOTIONAL OR BORROW A BOOK**

As a reminder, the First St. John Library has a wealth of Christian literary available to be borrowed. You can find some devotionals featured on the table in the lounge that you are able to check out for up to a year! It is a great time to find the perfect devotional to start for this year or check out some other great books both fiction and non-fiction. Instructions on how to sign out a book or devotional are located on the shelves. For any assistance or questions, please see Emily Kruse or call the office at 419-691-7222.

### *MONTHLY MINISTRY* *OUTREACH*



The ministry outreach for October will be The Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission. The Toledo Gospel Rescue mission is a local ministry that ministers to the spiritual & physical needs of the homeless and low income throughout northwest OH & Southeast MI. They rely on local support to fund materials, services, skilled trades and volunteers to make this home mission possible.

It costs \$20 per person per day to shelter, feed, and care for the men, women, and children that are served at the Gospel Rescue Mission each day. Every donation you make goes to work helping men, women, and children restore their lives!

To participate, place your offering in the pink envelope in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

### MISSION SUNDAY RESULTS FOR OCTOBER

Once again, we held a Mission Sunday on October 27<sup>th</sup> where the congregation was asked to donate items to the Feed Your Neighbors program, and our very own Personal Needs Pantry. After starting Mission Sunday in September and receiving such a great response, we decided to make Mission Sunday a monthly event. In October, we collected 179 canned goods for the Lutheran Social Services 'Feed Your Neighbor' program, and an additional 206 products for our very own Personal Needs Pantry. In addition, the Perrysburg HS Rowing Team held a collection drive for our pantry and donated an additional 606 items! Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

Our next Mission Sunday will be Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. More info to come in the bulletin!



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Christmas. We will meet on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. If you'd like to help, please call the church office at 419-691-7222. Thanks!

## PLEASE CONSIDER . . .

Those who receive the newsletter at home via the U.S. Postal Service have noticed we now send them with first class postage. You may also know that first class postage is very expensive.

If you currently have the newsletter mailed to you, would you consider opting to pick yours up at church or having it emailed to you so you can print it at home? If you decide to do this, please call Jennifer in the church office at 419-691-7222 to let her know. Thank you!

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

If you would like a Christmas wreath placed on your departed veteran spouse, parent, sibling or friend's gravesite, please let Bob Haar know by seeing him in church or calling him at 419-250-9409. The cost is \$17 each or 3 for \$34. We are also seeking donations to help place wreaths on the remainder of our veterans graves as well. If you would like to donate to Wreaths Across America, please make a check out to First St John Lutheran and indicate in the memo line it is for Wreaths Across America. The deadline for notifying Bob if you would like to place a wreath is Sunday, November 10th.



## FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS

The 2025 sign up sheets for altar flowers for January through October will soon be placed in the red flower sign up book. This book is located under the main bulletin board in the narthex. We hope to have the new sheets in the book by mid-November. Keep in mind you can also call the church office to add flowers to the schedule on the Sunday you prefer.

## WE ARE HIRING!



The Day School is looking for a part time aid to work 8:00 am-1:00 pm Monday/Wednesday/Friday each week. For more information or to apply, please contact Andrea in the Day School office.



## JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSAL!

Craig Whitaker, of Craig's Pianos and Keyboards has graciously agreed to temporarily helping fill in as our choir director through the Christmas season as we begin to search for a permanent replacement. Choir practice will take place each Thursday at 6pm unless otherwise noted with planned choir performances a few Sundays a month. If you have ever considered being part of our choir, please plan to join us!

**Let Us Give Thanks!**  
Poem © 2018 by Sarah M. Menkin

In bounty – or with just enough,  
if days are bright or times are tough,  
in brilliant sunshine or in rain,  
in happiness or crushing pain...  
let us give thanks!

If we're alone or if we stay  
with family near or far away,  
with friends or strangers let us share  
some sign of kindness and of care...  
and offer thanks!

Lifting our hearts in hope and praise  
each in our own and varied ways,  
o'er simple fare or fancy food,  
may we be filled with gratitude...  
and offer thanks!

Images: Public Domain from Pixabay