



### "Jesus Loves Me . . ."





### "O Christians Leagued Together . . . "







#### THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE ...

The Christian life of faith is one participating in the grace of God envisioned in Jesus Christ. In Baptism and through Confession, there is daily affirmation of justification by grace in the predicament of human life. The Christian Communion enables one to join with Christ and others in witnessing to the new creation of God. In these opportunities, faithfulness to the Word can be evaluated and the Gospel becomes embodied in life.

This directory serves as a witness of the Christian community of St. John Lutheran Church. It reveals the challenge of the Gospel in the lives of those who believe. It portrays the power of the Cross in transforming the moments of life into acts of faith. For faithfulness is a dialogue, an ethic, a new vision of human life which is constantly at work. It is my wish that this directory be a blessing to all those who open its pages and a faithful witness of the life giving power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world today.

In Christ,

Sumes V. Bosse

Rev. James V. Bosse

### "He Leadeth

Dear Friends in Christ:

Me . . . . "

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

For one hundred years following in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist, the spiritual father of St. John, the message has been a pointing of people to the Christ. On our envelope we have the theme: "A century with the Gospel." Eight pastors have been instrumental in ministering to Christ and being agents of God's grace in Baptism for infants and adults, instructing adolescents and adults preparatory to their Affirmation of Baptism, presided at happy moments of marriage, listened to troubled souls, ministered to and reassured the bereaved, preached the word and administered the Lord's Supper. People have responded in commitment and dedication.

Through the years perhaps you can recall where the congregation has had its ups and downs, its depressions and moments of challenge. As we look back we might miss the real struggles of our forefathers as twenty-nine of them decided to found a Lutheran congregation in Williston. We thank God for their foresight, sacrifice, and concern for providing a "pointing place," a place to gather to hear the gospel, experience it, and respond to its challenge in discipleship.

The first six months of 1983 will help us to recall a little where we have been, as former pastors and sons of the congregation return to celebrate with us. But we must also look to the future as new challenges of the Gospel come our way. May we ever be in support of ministry not letting dissension or different opinions lead us astray. New challenges will call for greater commitment, dedication, and sacrifice in these economic times. In all we do may we continue to point our world to Him who is "the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

In our centennial year and in the future "Let us give God the glory."

Sincerely In Him,

Ronald J. Diener, Pastor



### THE HISTORY OF

#### ST. JOHN CONGREGATION

This is the story of a town and a church .....

The town came first . . . rough and rugged . . . hand hewn from a wilderness of maple, hickory, elm and oak.

Lumber was the leading business - and people followed the receding timber line. Hard on this line came the farmers, clearing the fields for tilling.

This was the pattern: here and there the lumbermen set up their mills. Towns sprang up. Unpainted clapboard towns, vigorous at first . . . but with a fast-spent youth that died as mills moved on to virgin timber stands.

Williston was such a town. The stave mill set the pace. But in addition, it also had the railroad - and through a combination of the two, the town had basis for a more enduring life than most.

As the community deepened its roots, the need for a church, initially fostered by a few, became more recognized.

And so it was that on June 24th, the traditional date of the birth of John the Baptist, in the year of our Lord, 1883, twenty-nine Lutheran men of the vicinity of Williston, Ohio, met and unanimously decided to found a Lutheran congregation. The Rev. Gideon Rausch, pastor of Salem Church, Toledo, acted as chairman.

Rev. Rausch was already familiar with Williston. His wife's two sisters resided here. One was married to the physician, Dr. George Kilmer; the other was wife of Gust Shephard, a local merchant who was leader in the movement for a village church.

Pastor Rausch established himself as a pioneer with vision

in the home mission field. Sundayafter Sunday he held services for his Salem congregation in North Toledo in the morning and then came to Williston on horseback for services in the afternoon. When rains made the mud roads impassable, the pastor would arrive on foot - belated, but not undaunted after 15 miles of walking the railroad ties from Toledo.



The congregation, too, displayed a hardy spirit. On warm worship days they would assemble outdoors, seated on bundles of scrap lumber.

The first services were held in Shephard's Hall above a store building which was located on the northwest corner, diagonally opposite the present church building.

The name chosen for the congregation was St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. Its first trustees were Henry Hansen, Julius Lentz and Fredrick Streetz. Ferdinand Stroshine and Epke Lorenzen served as the first deacons and Gust Shephard was the treasurer.

On January 21, 1884, the congregation passed a resolution to build a frame church. The minutes state that: "Thirty-seven promised to help with the building. Eight didn't."

A contract for \$1,475 was awarded to Edward Berck, a Port Clinton, Ohio builder. The church was built on property donated by James Thorpe and wife. Rev. Rausch and student pastors served the congregation until 1885 when Pastor Rausch accepted the call to serve at Williston full time.

In March, 1885, two acres of land just north of Williston were purchased for use as a congregational cemetery. During this time a parochial school was conducted for children of the congregation. Later a small frame school room was built beside the church. Also during this era the pastor began to serve a congregation formed at Blackberry, three miles east.

The mill town phase of village life was declining . . . soon to disappear. From it emerged a mature community of farmers, merchants, carpenters and other tradesmen. The congregation, and the town and countryside revolved around the church.



The Rev. Rudolph Muensinger served as pastor from 1894 - 1907. It was during his pastorate that a lot was purchased in 1897 on which to build a parsonage. This was constructed in 1901.

In 1907 the Rev. C.F. Schleicher be-

came pastor of the congregation. He served six years until ill health prematurely cut short his career. He resigned in 1913 and died shortly



after his son, The Rev. Max Schleicher, had been called to take his place.

Among the physical changes that took place while Rev. Schleicher served was the building of a new brick church. It was dedicated in the spring of 1916 and cost approximately \$16,000. In 1924, a new brick parsonage was built for \$8,000.



Gradually during his pastorate, the use of the German language for services was changed to English. In 1915 one service a month was held in English. By 1919 German services were limited to twice a month, and in 1929 were cut to one per month. On the last Sunday of 1943 the final German communion service was conducted.

Rev. Schleicher resigned as pastor at St. John in 1934 to devote his full

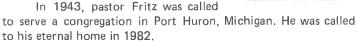
time as superintendent of the Luther Home of Mercy in Williston, which he founded. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Captial University, Columbus, in 1957 and was called to his eternal home in November, 1962.

In 1935 the Rev. Walter J. Fritz was installed. During his pastorate the organizational life of the congregation further developed with the beginnings of Luther League and choir.

In 1936, approval was granted to use an envelope system

for giving as the Lord blessed, rather than the \$12 assessment per year. The first two sons of the congregation were ordained in 1937 - Edmund Schleicher and Charles Sandrock became Christian ministers. A pipe organ was installed in the church in 1942.

In 1941 the cemetery care and title were turned over to the Allen Township authorities.



The Rev. Gerald E. Ferne accepted the call here and was installed on August 22, 1943. When in 1944, some major parsonage alterations were undertaken, our Church Building Fund was started with the funds which remained.



In 1949, our third son of the congregation was ordained, Lester F. Heins. In January 1949, the congregation decided to proceed with an enlargement program for the church building. Congregational growth had been continuing at a healthy pace and both church and Sunday School facilities were taxed beyond their intended capacities.



Ground breaking services were held on Palm Sunday, March 18, 1951, and on May 2, 1952, the enlarged and beautified House of Worship was dedicated. In 1953, a new pipe organ was dedicated. This entire program was completed at a cost of approximately \$145,000.

All through the years, the pastors served both Williston and Blackberry congregations. Both churches grew to

such proportions that it was decided in 1954 that each church should have its own minister. The union had been marked by years of harmony and the sister congregations parted with great mutual respect. We still have combined Thanksgiving and Good Friday services.

On August 19, 1956, a special and awe-inspiring event took place at St. John. The three older Heidmann brothers ordained their three younger brothers, Kurt, Armin, and Rex, into the Christian ministry. St. John now had six sons as Lutheran pastors.

At the annual meeting in 1957 approval was granted to proceed with two Sunday morning services.

In May of 1962, we celebrated our 10th anniversary in the building with a vesper service. We also celebrated Pastor Ferne's 25th year of ordination.

In June of 1963, we celebrated our 80th anniversary with a guest preacher and a potluck dinner. In November, Pastor Ferne was granted a release from St. John to follow the Lord's call to Mt. Zion in Detroit, Michigan.

Pastor Henry A. Tegtmeier was installed as our pastor in April of 1964. In April, 1965, a remodeling program for an educational building and a revamped front entrance was approved for \$150,000. We continued to help our neighbors when in 1966, we approved transferring \$9,634 in mission funds to Calvary Lutheran at Millbury, Ohio.

May, 1967, found us dedicating the new educational building, bell tower and front entrance.

John Schleicher, the seventh son of the congregation, was ordained on January 18, 1970. This was special in that John's great-grandfather and grandfather had both served as St. John's pastors.



We surprised Pastor and Mrs. Tegtmeier on their 25th wedding anniversary and his 25th year of ordination in May 1970, with a guest preacher and dinner for their family.

In 1971, the internship program was approved with Dan Merz being our first intern. The Luther League purchased a used church bus. Mike Bennett was our intern for 1972 - 1973.

The next years found us painting the basement and installing new lights, glass doors on the west entrance, purchasing new hymnals, storm windows and installing an emergency generator. On January 22, 1978, we burned the mortgage.

January, 1980, Pastor Tegtmeier resigned from our ministry. On October 19, 1980, Rev. Ronald J. Diener became our shepherd. Also the new lounge was completed that year.



In June of 1981, we adopted a revised constitution. A proposal was



made that St. John and Luther Home of Mercy share an ordained pastor.

January 1982, found us offering communion at every other Sunday service. On June 27th, we found new

pads in our pews and Rev. James V. Bosse installed as our associate pastor. On August 1, our eighth son of the congregation, Paul Gruetter, became a pastor.

As 1983 approaches, the congregation is very much aware of its heritage and 100 years of existence through the grace of God. We are planning on having the church interior repainted and anxiously await the 6 months of celebration of our 100th anniversary.

In the 100 years that God has used this church to be an instrument of his grace, two thousand, one hundred thirty-eight children have been presented at the baptismal font and became heirs of the kingdom of God. Two thousand, one hundred thirteen persons have been instructed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church and publicly professed their faith into which they were baptized. Promises of faithfulness to each other have been promised by seven hundred seventy-seven couples. Christian burial was provided to seven hundred one persons who were called from this life to life eternal. God has blessed St. John immensely throughout the past 100 years and promises to continue to do so for which we are in duty bound to thank, praise and serve him.

In 1983 may the nine hundred sixty-three baptized members and seven hundred twenty-three confirmed members continue with zeal, courage and faith to undertake whatever the people of St. John congregation may need and stand as "a bulwark never failing" to all future generations.

1883 - Calendar of Events - 1983

January 9, 1983 - Edmund Schleicher January 23, 1983 - Rex Heidmann February 13, 1983 - Lester Heins - 3:30 p.m. -February 27, 1983 - Chapel Choir Concert March 13, 1983 - Armin Heidmann

March 13, 1983 - Armin Heidmann March 27, 1983 - Kurt Heidmann April 10, 1983 - John Schleicher April 24, 1983 - Charles Sandrock May 1, 1983 - Youth Sunday May 8, 1983 - Gerald Ferne May 22, 1983 - Henry Tegtmeier June 12, 1983 - Paul Gruetter

June 24, 1983 - Friday - Dinner and Pageant at Genoa Area High School

"HISTORY OF THE PAST"
"CHALLENGE TO THE FUTURE"

Centennial Committee

Edna Rideout - Chairman Lester Henningsen Rosemarie Bench Margaret Berger

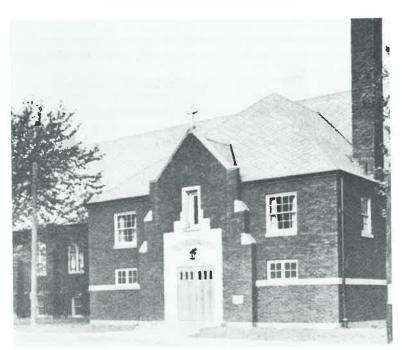
Ted Lorenzen Jeff Smarkel Wayne Bauman Joyce Lemke - Historical Diane Gerkensmeyer - Worship Fran Kusian - Pageant Helen Furstnau - Publicity

## "My Church, My Church" My dear old Church"



1884 - 1915







1916 - 1951



1952 - 1965

# "Rock of Ages"



Pastor Muensinger at original altar



Junior Choir of 1976



Emma Henningsen



Centennial Group of 1976



## "Christ for the World We Sing . . ."





Children's Choir



Adult Choir



Betty Roecker, Organist



Tami Schimming, Organist



Junior Choir



Folk Group

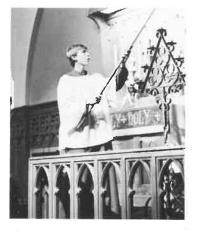
### "Break Thou the Bread of Life"













Dorothy Kinsel, Secretary



Marvin Sievert, Custodian

### "Onward Christian







Edmund Schleicher Woodville, Ohio



Charles Sandrock Columbus, Ohio





Lester Heins Minneapolis, Minnesota



### Soldiers"





Kurt Heidmann Wayne, Michigan



Rex Heidmann Portland, Oregon



John Schleicher Detroit, Michigan



Armin Heidmann LaCrosse, Wisconsin



Paul Gruetter Willoughby, Ohio





### "Children of the Heavenly Father"















## "We Are One In The Spirit"

















### "The Church's One Foundation"













AMBORSKI, Gerald & Deborah Brian, Richard, Kristen



AMBROSE, William & Carol Todd, Anne, Sue Ellen



AMES, Lillian



BANKERTZ, George, Jr. & Joanne Mae; David George



BAUMAN, Junior & Esther



BAUMAN, Wayne & Linda Nicholas & Matthew



BEAMER, Daniel & Carole John & Paul



BENCH, Rosemarie Bob & Pam



BERGER, Donald & Margaret Dan



BERGER, Louis & Esther



BERGER, Melvin & Rene Julie



BERGER, Merle & Shirley Randy, Greg, Brad



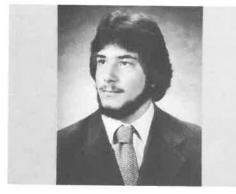
BERGER, Tim & Cheryl



BLAUSEY, Adrian & Ruth



BLAUSEY, Bernard & Marjorie Brenda & Craig



\*BLAUSEY, Daniel



BLAUSEY, Herbert & Erna



BLAUSEY, Lenore Brenda



BONNER, Neal & Jennifer David



BOSSE, James & Julie



\*BOWSER, Alan



BOYER, Frank & Sharon Max, Laurie, Jennifer



BROSSIA, Richard & Becky Jodi, Jon, Joe



CALDWELL, Russell & Vicki Cari & Brodi



CARIS, Robert & Mary



CARPENTER, Violet



CARSTENSEN, Gary & Darlene Brenda & Randy



CARSTENSEN, James & Lorle



CLARK, Ronald & Debra Eric & Aaron



CLAUSSEN, Edgar



CRUTHERS, Kim & Judy Matthew



DEHRING, Roger & Phyllis



DELVENTHAL, Kent & Pat Holly



DICKEY, Katheryn Teresa Kollat



DICKINSON, Diane Beth, Brian, Brenda, Barbara



DIEFENTHALER, Clarence & Ruth



DIEFENTHALER, John & Teresa Jeff



DIENER, Ronald & Marilyn Mark & Ann



DIPMAN, Earl & Bernadine Cheryl



DRAPER, Edward & Eileen



DUVALL, Glenn & Laraine



DUVALL, James & Cheryle Jamieson



ECKERMANN, Clarence & Esther Gertrude



FABIAN, Miles & Connie Robin



FONDESSY, Dean & Marianna



FONDESSY, Emerson & Marilyn Marene, Kurt, Karolyn



FONDESSY, Nelson & Helen



FOSS, James & Sonia



GERKENSMEYER, Ron & Diane



GRUETTER, Lawrence & Elaine Judy, Carol, Annette



GRUETTER, Mildred



HAACK, Lawrence & Edna



HALKA, Ronald & Lois Jason



HAMILTON, James & Chris Adam, Matthew, Zachary



HANSEN, John & Sue



HANSEN, Martin & Alice



HANSEN, Terry & Doris Holly, Tammy, Terrylou



HARMEYER, Mary Stephen & John



HARMEYER, Richard



HARTMAN, Dennis & Cindy



FOSS, Marie



FOUKE, David & Lisa Christina & Michael



FOUKE, James III & Paula James



FOUKE, Richard & Delores Debra



FOWLER, LeRoy & Diane Amy Krueger & Sherrie Krueger



FREDERICKSEN, Michael



FREDERICKSEN, Paul & Rosemary



\*FRIEDERICKSEN, Elmer & Loretta FURSTNAU, LeRoy & Helen





GERKENSMEYER, Earl & Evelyn



\*GERKENSMEYER, Emma



GERKENSMEYER, Frieda Inez Hummel



JEFFERS, Danny & Karen Staci & Brian



JENSEN, Dorothy



JENSEN, Frederic & Suellen Kimberly & Ron



JENSEN, Ronald & Pam John, Jim, Mike



JOHNSON, Arnold & Grace



JOHNSON, Avis Karen, Jeffery, Gary



JOHNSON, Bill & Kris



JOHNSON, Charles & Marvel



JOHNSON, Earl



JOHNSON, Edwin & Dorothy



JOHNSON, Elsie



JOHNSON, Elsie A.



HARTMAN, Isabella Frederick



HARTMAN, Lowell & Diane Kathy



HARTMAN, Melvin & Ilo



HATMAKER, Sheila Sarah & Andrew



HAVENER, Merryl & Gertrude



HELLE, Reynold & Joy



HELLE, Wilbert & Vivien



HELMKE, Don & Matie David



HENNINGSEN, Lester



HODULIK, David & Jennie Troy & Eric



\*IRWIN, Henrietta



JASMUND, Donna



KOHNE, Dorothy



KONCZAL, Greg & Marcia Nathan



KONIECZNY, Melvin & Eileen



KOPFMAN, Ella



KRUKEMYER, Leona



KUSIAN, Byron & Frances



KUSIAN, Fred



KUSIAN, James & Denise Kimberly & Erica



\*LAU, F.H.



'AU, Frederick & Virginia



LAU, Herman & Edna



LEHMANN, John & Naomi



\*JOHNSON, Erma



\*JOHNSON, Harmon & Florence



JOHNSON, Jeffrey & Beth



JOHNSON, Lester & Virginia



JOHNSON, Robert & Helen



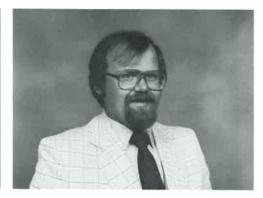
KING, Clela Juanita



KING, Madeline



KINGERY, James & Susan Jennifer, Krista, Leah, Tre



KINSEL, Barry



KINSEL, Olen & Dorothy



KINSEL, Timothy & Rosemary Scott



KNIERIM, William & Kathleen Matthew & Pamela



LIESKE, Alan & Carolyn Matthew & Michael



LORENZEN, Theodore & Aurora



LOWE, Dean & Mary Julie, Robert, Daniel



LOWE, Gertrude



LOWE, Isadore & Anna Jane Tammy



LOWE, James & Brenda



\*LOWE, Laura



LUMBREZER, Gary & LuAnn Tami



LUMBREZER, Vincent & Kathryn



MANN, Michael & Ann Timothy



MARSH, Dean & Hazel



MARSH, Glenn & Geraldine



\*LEISENHEIMER, Minna



LEMKE, Clayton & Joyce Cliff & Jill



LENTZ, Lawrence & Nora



LENZ, Daniel & Joyce Andrew, Jennifer, Sarah



LENZ, Debra Amanda



\*LENZ, Douglas



LENZ, Harold & Grace



LENZ, Keith & Tana Charlene & Michele



LENZ, Orville



LENZ, Vernon & Jeanette



LENZ, Warren & Pearl



LEPPERT, James & Bertha Dana



NISSEN, Marvin & Leona



NISSEN, Ralph & Eunice



NISSEN, Ronald & Joyce Jason, Christopher, Kirk



NOVOTNY, Margie



\*OBERHAUS, Alma



OLIPHANT, Ralph & Julie Brian, Teresa, Elisa



ORIANS, Karl & Roberta



OVERMYER, Sheldon & Marie Anita



OZOLS, Milda



PENDREY, Robert & Ruth Lynne



PETERSEN, Erma Daniel



PFEIFFER, Ray & Evelyn



MARTIN, Fern



MATHEWS, Donald & Belinda



MATHEWS, Gary & Lisa



MC DANIEL, Rally & Carolyn Lynn, Matt, Renee' Kohlman



MIESLE, Richard & Cheryl Kirk & Kelly



MORGAN, Steven & Marcia Elizabeth & Penelope Streit



MUSOLF, Walter & Ruth



NELSON, Calvin & Marvel Daniel, Joanne, Kevin, Jennifer



NEMETH, Joseph & Carlotta



NISSEN, David & Melinda Christopher & Amy



NISSEN, Donald & Lucille



NISSEN, Fred & Leona



\*PHILLIPS, Dave



\*PHILLIPS, Don



PHILLIPS, Lamont & Marlene Dean



PHILLIPS, Loretta



PLANTZ, Robert & Phyllis



POLSDORFER, Beatrice



RILEY, Jami Jaci



ROECKER, Virgil & Betty Robin & Terri



ROLLINS, Darrell & Helen Jean Marsha, John, Ronald



RUDES, Randy & Paulette Angela, Laurie, Abigail, Lindsey



RUPERT, Gary & Carol Chris



RUTHSATZ, Donald & Nancy



SABIN, Forest & Arline Steven



SANDROCK, Clyde & Donna



SANDROCK, Loren & Jean



SANDROCK, Ralph & Edna Marilyn & Carolyn



SANDROCK, Roland & Janice Ron & Jennifer



SAUER, Robert & Karen Robby & Lyndsay



SAYEN, Donald & Joanne Cheryl



SCHIMMEL, Ethelmae



SCHIMMEL, Lee & Mary Jean Eddie & Karen



SCHIMMING, Gary & Kathy Alan & Eric



SCHIMMING, James & Dolores Tami, Traci, Kris



SCHIMMING, Kathleen



SCHIMMING, Kenneth & JoElaine Denise, Jeff, Kevin



SCHIMMING, Milton & Mary Gerald & Susan



SCHIMMING, Raymond & Ruth



SCHIMMING, Ronald & Judy Pat, Wendy, Matthew



SCHIMMING, Scott & Deanna



SCHIMMING, Virgil & Ruth



SCHIMMING, Woodrow & Loretta



SCHLENDER, Thomas & Linda Tom, Jr., Robert, Charles, Laura



SCHLIEVERT, Elizabeth



SCHLIEVERT, Helen Linda



SCHLIEVERT, James & Sheila Jim, Jr. & Randall



SCHLIEVERT, Laura



\*SCHLIEVERT, Minnie



SCHLIEVERT, Nelson & Patricia



SCHMIDT, Dennis & Nancy Douglas & Danielle



SCHMIDT, Dorothy



SCHNABEL, Thelma



SCHULTZ, Fred & Jenise



SHEAHAN, James & Janice Ronald & Roger



SHOALTS, Harold & Marlene Amy



\*SIEVERT, Esther



SIEVERT, Hazel



SIEVERT, Kenneth & Patsy Jodi



SIEVERT, Marvin & Orlena



SMARKEL, Allan & June Jeffrey & James



SMITHERS, Clarence & Wilma Mark, Karen, Jill, Eric



STATON, George & Mary Chad & Eric



STEVEN, William & Penny Nathan



STROHSCHER, Larry & Nancy David, Daniel, Christine



SUTTER, Paul & Bea Walletta & Marty



SWAN, Timothy & Elaine



TANK, Glen & Jane Heather & Holly



TEGTMEIER, Paul & Sandie Jamie & Jeremy



TILLOTSON, Diana Julie & Jim



TITGEMEYER, Carl & Doris Kurt & Tim



TRAVER, Darryl & Diane Rose & Bruce



TRUMAN, Thomas & Joan Tom, Jacob, David



TURNOW, Blanche



TURNOW, Freda



VARGO, Joe & Carol Joe, Tracy, Michelle



VINCENT, Lorraine



WAGONER, Howard & Judy Ken, Bill, Jennifer



WAIDMANN, Scott & Denise Jason



WALTERS, James & Kathleen Brad & Jamie



WILHELM, John & Althea



WILKA, Kathryn



WILLARD, John & Beverly



WILLIAMS, E. LeRoy & Bonnie Daniel, Donald, David, Elizabeth, Rebecca



WITTY, James & Evalyn Jami



WOLFE, William & Nancy Kirk & Kristi



YOUNKER, Harry & Betty



YOUNKER, Howard & Thelma



YOUNKER, Robert & Vickie Shelly & Marianne



ZAMBRANO, Sam & Vicky Amy & Adam



\*ZUNK, Jim



ZUNK, Junior & Donna Peggy & Paula



ZUNK, Ray & Mary Ann Renee Rae & Jada Ann

\*People submitted their own pictures.