

ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 28th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Andrea Schumaker on her birthday on March 1st, given by her family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

2-21-21: In Person: 56 Online: 92 Total: 148

2-24-21: 11:00 am: 21 7:00 pm: 21 Online: 24 (both services) Total: 66

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Winnie Wohlgamuth, Susie Moszkowicz – Kingston Rehab, Perrysburg

Gary Henningsen – Orchard Villa

Delores Heilman – The Labuhn Center

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: Add: Joe Marazon, Family of Bill Morse, Liz Perozek, Winnie Wohlgamuth, Ron Schieb, Collin Folk & Alyssa

Ongoing Concerns: Doug Amstutz, Art Balk, Lynn Balogh, Bennett (no last name given), Karen Bless, Lori Capitola, Jeannette Carlo, Pat Christy, Marjorie Counterman, Nancy Coy, Hannah Culler & family, Mary Ann Davies, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Chiara Del-Mace, Don Dotson, Emmalyn (no last name given), Jean Fry, Paulette Giaimo, Grace Harris Greenbank, Delores Heilman, Toni Henline, Gary Henningsen, Mary Hubaker, Karen Huber, Pastor Beth Huener, Eric Johnson, Dana Justice, Mark Kieswetter, Joanne Koch, Tom Kohn, Ada Kreger, Heidi LeGrand, Carol Lorenzen, Teresa McFarland, Joyce Martin, Evan Matheney, Donald Meyer, Donna Miller, Sue Moszkowicz, Pam Pirolli, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Leona Ryan, Norm Schumaker, Skylar (no last name given), Julie Swanson, Becky Thielan, Joan Tilton, Jane Vargo, Nick Wasserman, Katelyn Weirich, Jeff Wheeler, Bill Wiener, Sharon Winslow John & Grace Yard, Raetta Zeisler

CALENDAR FOR FEB. 28 – MAR. 6

<u>Today</u>	9:00 am	- Worship
	10:30 am	- Baptism
	10:30 am	- Virtual Sunday School for 3, 4, 5 year olds
	10:30 am	- Virtual Sunday School for 4 th , 5 th , & 6 th grades
	11:30 am	- Virtual Sunday School for 1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd grades
	11:30 am	- Catechism
<u>Monday</u>	9:30 am	- Quilting
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 am	- Lenten Service in Church
	7:00 pm	- Lenten Service in Church
<u>Thursday</u>	11:30 am	- Bible Study on Zoom

BAPTISM AFTER CHURCH TODAY is for Lily Rose Mohr, born August 14, 2020 to Eric and Chelsea (Skorupa) Mohr. Sponsors are Eddie Mohr and Abbie Masserant.

THANK YOU for being an important part of our uncommon, unique work in serving a struggling city and caring for neighbors who have lots of beauty in them despite instances of abounding hardship. Thank you for caring about, serving, and loving people in a neglected neighborhood!

-- Pastor Mike, Salem Lutheran Church

SPECIAL THANKS for your gifts to the Toledo home residents and your recent financial donation. May God keep you well and safe in these challenging times. Blessings to all!

-- Pastor Jim Dumke, VP for Mission Integration, Genacross Lutheran Services

LAST SUNDAY TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS: The cost per plant is \$10 this year, and the deadline for ordering flowers is March 3rd. The form is in the bulletin. You can mail in your flower order or drop it off in the little wooden church with your offering this morning or you can drop it off at the church office Monday through Wednesday this week.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – LAST WEEK TO DONATE: Today is the LAST Sunday we are collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring program. All monetary donations will be given to Lutheran Social Services so they can purchase needed items. The soup pot is in the Narthex (lobby) for your donations, or you can write a check to First St. John Lutheran and write “Souper Bowl of Caring” on the memo line. Thank you.

LETTER REGARDING OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: This past year, the Covid-19 pandemic left people around the world searching for hope. In the midst of fear and uncertainty, it is crucial to bring Good News to children: that God loves them and has not forgotten them. The official numbers are in and we're thrilled to celebrate that over 9,113,853 shoebox gifts were donated worldwide in 2020! This includes 7,809,410 donated in the U.S., with 415,403 built online. The Greater Toledo area alone sent 10,015 boxes.

We couldn't have done it without your help! We hope we can count on your participation this year. Please continue to pray for our ministry so we can reach more children with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks again for your participation. Sincerely in Jesus,

-- Bill & Carol Gospodarek, Church Relations Volunteers for Operation Christmas Child

DAY SCHOOL POPCORN FUNDRAISER: We will be selling bags of popcorn from the Wolf Creek Kettle Corn company. The sale runs from March 1st through March 16th. Cost is \$10 per 1 ½ gallon bag. The school receives 50% of the profits. You can choose from the following flavors: sweet & salty, snicker-doodle, caramel glazed, and tutti fruity. Order forms will be emailed to members and also will be available in the March 7th and 14th announcements. Delivery will be March 25-26, and you can also pick up your order at in-person worship on March 28th. If you need more information or have any questions, please call LuAnn Spoerl at 419-836-1651.

MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS: For whatever the reason, we haven't seen or heard from several of our members who seem to be missing. We are a family, coming together to help and support each other. And as a family, we need to reach out to those missing members. All it takes is a simple phone call to let someone know we've noticed their absence. Think of someone you haven't seen, and give them a call. Let them know they are missed. *-- Mark Ackerman, Council President*

LENTEN SERVICES: Our in-person Lenten worship services are at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm each Wednesday in Lent, which ends on March 24th. All current restrictions and safety protocols for COVID will be observed. **NOTE:** Only the 7:00 pm services will be livestreamed from our church website at www.firststjohn.com. The 7:00 pm service also will be recorded and posted on the church's website for later viewing in case you miss the livestream.

CANDY NEEDED FOR AREA-WIDE “BUNNY HOP”: As we did with the Trunk or Treat (Candy Crawl) event this past fall, this spring we are again joining with several local churches and businesses for a “Bunny Hop” on Sunday, March 21st from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will have one station in the parking lot across from the church to hand out candy. Parents will drive their children to the different locations. We had approximately 350 – 400 cars that came to our station in the fall, so we assume we will need just as much candy! If you can help, we will need bags of candy. We will be putting several pieces in Ziploc bags for the children to take. Collection boxes will soon be in the Narthex if you bring the candy to in-person worship. Or, you can come to the Educational Building during church office hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm during the week, call the office when you arrive (419-691-7222) and someone will meet you at the door to accept your donation. Thank you in advance for your help!

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR MARCH is toilet paper. Please deposit your items in the pull-out drawer to the left of the Feed Your Neighbor bin in the Narthex (under the main bulletin board) or in the green bin (also in the Narthex). NOTE: Remember, no travel size or sample items—the families who come to this pantry need items to last them an entire month. Thank you for your help.

ALTAR GUILD: Our next meeting is Monday, March 8th in the lounge at 6:30 pm.

WELCA BOARD MEETING will be Monday, March 15th at 6:30 pm. Location to be determined.

DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Registration for the 2021-2022 Day School program has begun. The registration fee is waived for active church members, but you must still complete the registration form in order to reserve a spot for your child. Forms can be found on the school's website at www.firststjohndayschool.org. Children must be at least three years old and potty-trained. Our classes are from 9:00 am to noon, with extended care available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. For questions, please call Andrea Buckley at 419-691-6480.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE: Our online Bible study has switched to Thursdays at 11:30 am during the season of Lent so as not to conflict with the Wednesday services. Please note the study will be recorded and posted on the church's website at www.firststjohn.com

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS: Penny DeWitt is stepping down as committee chairperson, so we need someone else to take over. If you or someone you know might be interested or if you have questions, please contact Sue Ann Rogers, Chris Hunsaker, Darlene Lorenzen, or Esther Bell.

HELP NEEDED FOR SOUND BOARD: We still need one more person to help operate the sound board for Sunday morning worship. Training is provided. We'd like to have additional people so each person will be "on duty" for only one week per month. If this is something you'd like to try, please contact Dave Wilbarger at 419-205-7855.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and will attend college for the 2021/2022 school year. Applications are in the church office, or you can call the church office to have it emailed to you. Please turn in completed applications to the church office by March 30th to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

ORDERING ALTAR FLOWERS: If you'd like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone, please call Toni in the church office at 419-691-7222. She will write your order in the red flower book since it is not currently displayed in the Narthex. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can either drop it in the small church in the Narthex where the offering goes, or you can drop it off or mail it to the church office.

PROBLEMS WITH LIVE STREAMING? If you have problems viewing the livestream of the worship service, please contact Pastor Rayl directly at 567-395-0143 (phone or text) after 10:30 am to discuss the issue you may be having. He may be able to determine the problem so you can view the service next time without difficulty.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the Narthex in the alcove on the east side of the church. If you can deliver a box or two to other members, that would be helpful. You also can stop by the office during the week to pick them up.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE – TEXAS: In Texas, the lack of infrastructure to handle freezing temperatures and record-setting snow and ice led to power, food and water shortages. At its peak, 4.5 million homes and businesses were without electricity and heat. Around 13 million are also facing water disruptions due to bursting pipes and damaged water systems. As temperatures rise, melting ice and snow is expected to cause even more damage. Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening shelters are in place. Long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations. Gifts to "U.S. Severe Storms" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected. You can make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and write "U.S. Severe Storms" on the memo line and send it to: *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009*. Or, you can call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card, Monday - Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm central time. You can also donate online at <https://community.elca.org/us-storms>