

ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 14th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Deb Hagedorn's birthday today and her son Joe's birthday tomorrow, given by their family (3 vases).

SPECIAL VASE is presented in loving memory of Lily Dukeshire Georgeson on her birthday on February 13th, given by her family. We also welcome Lily's family who is worshipping with us today.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

2-7-21: In Person: 44 Online: 96 Total: 140

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Susie Moszkowicz – Kingston Rehab, Perrysburg
Gary Henningsen – Orchard Villa
Delores Heilman – The Labuhn Center

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: Add: Sue Ann Rogers, Winnie Wohlgamuth, Ron Schieb, Collin Folk & Alyssa, Eric Johnson, Gary Henningsen, Donna Miller, Family of Joel Sandwisch, Leona Ryan, Sharon Winslow

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, Mary Hubaker, Karen Huber, Pastor Beth Huener, Jessica (no last name given), Dana Justice, Mark Kieswetter, Joanne Koch, Tom Kohn, Ada Kreger, Heidi LeGrand, Carol Lorenzen, Teresa McFarland, Joyce Martin, Evan Matheney, Donald Meyer, Sue Moszkowicz, Joyce Ostapowicz, Liz Perozek, Pam Pirolli, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Norm Schumaker, Skylar (no last name given), Julie Swanson, Becky Thielan, Joan Tilton, Jane Vargo, Nick Wasserman, Katelyn Weirich, Jeff Wheeler, Bill Wiener, John & Grace Yard, Raetta Zeisler

CALENDAR FOR FEB. 14 – FEB. 20

<u>Today</u>	9:00 am	- Worship
	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
<u>Monday</u>	9:30 am	- Quilting – see announcement for updates
	6:30 pm	- WELCA Board Meeting at Esther Bell's home
	7:30 pm	- 160 th Anniversary Committee Meeting via Zoom
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 am	- Ash Wednesday Service in Church
	7:00 pm	- Ash Wednesday Service in Church
<u>Thursday</u>	11:30 am	- Bible Study on Zoom

THANK YOU to Beth Hugueley for agreeing to be part of our Sound Board team. Welcome!

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS: We have a VERY quick turnaround this year on ordering flowers to decorate the altar at Easter. The deadline for order 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 when you come for in-person worship.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERVICES: Beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, worship services will be 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. Both Ash Wednesday services will be livestreamed, and each Wednesday's 11:00 am Lenten service will be livestreamed, recorded, and posted on the church's website.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and sets the tone of the season. It is a pointed call to repentance, which is to say that it is a return to the death and resurrection in which we participate through Holy Baptism by way of confession and faith in the forgiveness of sins. As the Apostle Paul establishes: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3 & 4).

Thus the imposition of ashes, from which the day receives its name, recalls both the mortality of sinful humanity and the redemption of Christ, into which Jesus' followers have been baptized. This context of contrition and repentance, fully and firmly centered in the cross and resurrection of Christ Jesus, is the framework within which the Lenten fast is undertaken. A focus on Christ's Passion will not be chiefly an emotional or intellectual exercise, though the Word and Spirit of God engage both the intellect and the emotions. Rather, in faith the Passion is approached as the very heart of the Gospel, which the Lord our Savior has accomplished for us and now bestows on us with the Means of Grace.

Our current situation due to COVID-19 makes it extremely difficult to conduct our worship events in the ways we wish and are used to doing. There are many things that we are required to forego. Whether or not we can proceed with the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday is still in question. However, every possible consideration will be used to do this if at all possible, but the final decision may not be made until the day prior. All precautions will be taken and the service will still be meaningful no matter if it is done or not.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE: This week we will switch our online study Thursdays at 11:30 am (February 18th, 25th, etc.) so as not to conflict with the Wednesday Lenten services. Please note the study will be recorded and posted on the church's website at www.firststjohn.com

WELCA BOARD MEETING: Our next meeting will be Monday, February 15th at 6:30 pm at Esther Bell's home. Please remember to bring your mask.

160th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING: The Anniversary Committee's next meeting will be Monday, February 15th at 7:30 pm online via ZOOM.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: We began our Souper Bowl of Caring program early this year, with some changes. Please note we are not collecting non-perishable food items this year. Instead, we accept monetary donations that we will give 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.

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!

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.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY is paper towels. 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.

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.

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.

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.