

ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 20th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Esther Bell's on her 80th birthday, given by Chuck & Andra Bell; and in honor of Dave Wilbarger on his 60th birthday tomorrow, given by his wife.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

3-13-22: 8:00 am: 28 10:30 am: 68 Online: 34 Total: 130
3-16-22: 11:00 am: 31 7:00 pm: 26 Total: 57

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Jeff Smith – HCA Florida Ocala Hospital
Eleanor Cochenour – Gardens of St. Francis Rehab

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* Jeff Smith, Family of Marilyn Cashen, Joe, Helen, Terry Bianchini, Andrea Hosley, James Spenthoff, Leona Ryan, Jill Nault, Deb Dusseau Warnke, Family of Judy Sharp, Ken DeWitt, Ann Dudics, Eleanor Cochenour, Tina McQuillin, Julie Frederick, Deborah Miller, Vickie Schnapps, Family of Norm Schumaker, Terry Vogalsang

Ongoing Concerns: Lynn Balogh, Bennett, Dan Bibish, Karen Bless, Pastor Joe Brosious, Bruce, Amy Brumley, Lori Capitola, Jeannette Carlo, Jordyn Cheatham, Pat Christy, Richard & Marjorie Counterman, Hannah Culler, Mary Ann Davies, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Dawn, Chiara Del-Mace, Emmalyn, Debbie Eversman, John Geiger, Paulette Giaimo, Sarah Gladieux, Grace Harris Greenbank, Tom Hartford, Gary Henningsen, Pastor Beth Huener, Mark Kieswetter, Derek Kochanski, Tom Kohn, Sharon Kruse, Morgan Landry, Heidi LeGrand, Linda, Joyce Martin, Bonnie Meier, Christina Merritt, Donna Miller, Logan Murphy, Nick, Pam Pirolli, Janet Quiroga, John Ranchan, Todd Reynolds, Sara Richardson, Logan Roberts, Ann Ryan, Jim Schumaker, Shelley Sherman, Skylar, Ann Smith, Julie Swanson, Tom Tedrow, Joan Tilton, Carlene Trost, Kellie Ulrich, Jane Vargo, A.J. Walker, Katelyn Weirich, Jeff Wheeler, Bill Wiener, Sharon Winslow, John Yard, Raetta Zeisler, Rob Zunk

CALENDAR FOR MAR. 20 – MAR. 26

Today	8:00 am	- Worship / Communion
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School
	9:15 am	- Catechism
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in Lounge
	10:30 am	- Worship
Monday	9:30 am	- Quilting
	6:30 pm	- WELCA Board Meeting
	7:30 pm	- Dartball (Away)
Wednesday	11:00 am	- Lenten Service
	7:00 pm	- Lenten Service
Thursday	11:00 am	- Bible Study
	6:00 pm	- Day School Open House
	7:00 pm	- Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 am	- Men's & Women's Fellowship Breakfast

WELCOME to First St. John Lutheran Church! We're happy you're here. If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest book, located in the Narthex (lobby).

THANK YOU: Cherry Street Mission Ministries has served those in need across Greater Toledo, Northwest Ohio, and Southeast Michigan for 75 years. Because of YOUR continued support, Cherry Street has moved beyond the basics to create a unique system to encourage personal development and positive movement toward stability for our clients. Thank you for your donation of \$730 on March 1, 2022 to make a difference in the lives of men and women in our community.

-- Alia Wolaver, Donor Relations Manager

THANK YOU: Thanks to many family and friends at First St. John for your prayers, visits, and love you gave to me and Norm's family before and after his death. The meal following his burial gave the family a chance to visit with one another. We enjoyed the dinner and the many different desserts the women made and brought in for us to enjoy. A very, very special thank you to Pastor Rayl for having Norm's service on such a busy Sunday.
-- Elaine Gladioux

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Marilyn Cashen who passed away on March 13th. Funeral services were held this past Thursday. We also send our condolences to the family of Allen Mortemore, especially his wife Mary. Mary has been our substitute organist on many occasions here at First St. John. For those who'd like to send a card, you can call the church office to obtain Mary's address.

WINTERFEST WRAP UP: Thanks to everyone who came and helped with our first Winter Fest. We had a great time! Thanks also to Andy Hodges for donating the generator; to Matt Miller for the use of his truck and wagon that we called the Sleigh Wagon; to Kyle Butler and Michelle Layman for the fire pit we used for making s'mores; to Jordan and McKenna Cummerow and Aubrey Swartz for helping with the popcorn; and to the Sunday School Board and JAM teachers who put it all together. And a big "thank you" goes to our wonderful congregation for your donations. Thank you!

"FAITH & FAMILY" NIGHT AT TOLEDO WALLEYE – RSVP DUE TODAY: Do you like hockey? If you do, this event is for you! On Sunday March 27th at 5:00 pm we will be watching the Toledo Walleye take on the Allen Americans. Prior to the game, there will be a presentation with the players at 3:30 pm where they talk about their Christian faith. This is also Lutheran Social Services night, so church council has approved to pay half of the ticket price for any youth, as well one friend, which makes tickets \$10. For anyone else who would like to attend, tickets are \$20. If you want to go, please notify the church office or Jacob Kelley **March 20th**. This will provide ample amount of time to buy the tickets for the group. Hope to see you at the game!

TO SEND A CARD TO JEFF SMITH: As most of you know, Jeff was vacationing in Florida and was out on his bicycle when he was hit by a car. He has already had one surgery with more coming. He is currently in a hospital in Florida. If you'd like to send a card, here is Jeff and Debbie's address in Florida (their mail here in Oregon is being forwarded):

Jeff & Debbie Smith
9701 East Highway 25
Lot 114
Bellview, FL 43320

DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: First St. John Day School will host an Open House on Thursday, March 24th from 6-7:30 pm. This is an opportunity for prospective families to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. Please invite friends you may know with young children who may be looking for a Christian school for their little ones. Fall registration for the 2022/2023 school year has already begun. If you can't attend the open house, please call the school at 419-691-6480 for information and to schedule a tour.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP– DEADLINE NEXT WEEK: This scholarship is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and will attend college for the 2022/2023 school year. Applications are in the church office. Stop by any time during office hours to pick up an application. ***Turn in your completed application to the church office by March 30th to be considered.***

SPECIAL MOVIE NIGHT: On Sunday, April 10th at 5:00 pm, we will be showing home videos of the orphanage, showing the children and events that took place. Tom Hartford will narrate the videos. If you'll recall, Tom told his story of growing up in the orphanage back on Genacross Sunday (February 6th). Other residents will share their stories and answer questions about their lives in the orphanage. A light meal with beverages and snacks will be available. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to either Tom at 419-302-1549 or the church office at 419-691-7222. ***NOTE: Due to the Bunny Hop event in our big parking lot that day, parking for movie night will be only in back of the church.***

CANDY NEEDED FOR AREA-WIDE “BUNNY HOP”: Local churches again are teaming up to offer a community-wide “Bunny Hop” on Sunday, April 10th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. To that end, we need donations of candy. 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 in the area. At our similar event at Halloween, there were 200 or more cars that came through, even though it was a very rainy day. If you can help, we will need bags of candy. We will put several pieces in Ziploc bags for the children to take. Collection boxes will 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 to drop off your donation. Thank you in advance for your help!

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER AVAILABLE: The Portals of Prayer Devotional booklets for April through June are now available for pick up. You can find them in the Narthex (lobby), the lounge, the church office, and in the small caddy outside of the door by the choir loft. They come in both large and small print versions. Feel free to take some for a friend!

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES: We have weekly Lenten services on Wednesdays at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. Both services are held in the church sanctuary. This week’s topic is “God’s Will and My Identity,” seen in Mary, the mother of our Lord.

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF MERCY MEETING REPORT: Two delegates from First St. John attended the 9th annual meeting of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM) on March 14th. The LMM is a combination of Filling Memorial Home (63rd annual meeting), Luther Home of Mercy (94th annual meeting), & Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio (LSSNO - 111th annual meeting). The theme for this year was "BY GRACE.... WITH GRATITUDE." Introductory remarks were conducted by Rev. Daniel Beaudoin (Bishop - NWO) & Rev. Kevin Wilson (president Ohio district - Missouri Synod). Part of the business meeting included nominations for the LSS Foundation Board and nominations for the LMM Board. The featured speaker was Senior Pastor Niklaus Schillack from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Pastor Schillack spoke about how so few people (258 volunteers / 904 staff) can impact so many people (29,493) in a positive way, from care facilities to counseling.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE: So far, between the money and the food donations we’ve collected, we have the equivalent of 865 food items donated. (For those who want to know the details, each dollar we collect translates into one food item that Lutheran Social Services can purchase for their pantry. We’ve collected 482 items and \$423.25 [that’s 423 items] so far.) We are a little more than halfway to our goal of 1,600 items, so keep up the good work! We will be collecting throughout the rest of the month. THANK YOU!!!

EASTER FLOWER SALE: Believe it or not, it’s time to order flowers to decorate our church for Easter. You can find an order form in the bulletin. You can choose from Easter lily, yellow daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Cost of each plant is \$12.00. If paying by check, please make it out to First St. John Lutheran and write “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Deadline for orders is Sunday, April 3rd.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING: Our next meeting is Monday, April 4th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. Note also that we will practice for the Maundy Thursday service on Tuesday, April 12th at 6:00 pm. We will set up for Easter on Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 am. Thank you.

DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: Registration for the Day School’s 2022-2023 year has begun. Members of First St. John have the opportunity to enroll their children and pay no registration fee. If you have any questions or would like to tour the school, please call our administrator, Andrea Buckley, at 419-691-6480.

THE CARD PARTY IS BACK! The 29th annual Card Party and Luncheon is Tuesday, May 10th at noon in our gym (elevator available). Cost is \$12, which includes a wonderful lunch with homemade desserts. Door and raffle prizes available. Even if you don’t play cards, come and play board games or just hang out with your friends from First St. John. For reservations, call the church office (419-691-7222) or Jane Schuetz (419-691-5506). Everyone is welcome!

DONATIONS FOR CARD PARTY: We need donations for our card party raffle. Raffle prizes should have values at least \$30 (gift certificates, gift baskets, flower arrangements, etc.) Door prizes can be something you make or that you can ask a business to donate. These are worth about \$10 to \$15, like gift certificates, dish towels, small items from stores like Bath & Body Works, etc. Boxes will be in the lounge and Narthex (lobby) for your donations of both types of prizes. Thank you!

COMMUNITY DISCOUNT CARDS: This ongoing fundraiser for our Day School involves purchasing a card that allows you to enjoy special discounts at your favorite local vendors. The card is good from November 1, 2021 to November 1, 2022. Some of the savings include 15% off at El Camino Real, \$12 for a 20-pound propane tank refill at Gladieux Home Center, 10% off at Salad Galley, 10% off at Lee Williams House of Meats, 15% off a full service oil change at Valvoline, \$5 off \$25 at Live Lively Boutique, plus discounts at other local stores like Soap City Car Wash, Shawarmaholic, Beth Allen's Florist, Great Clips, Eastern Lanes, and Marco's Pizza. ****Cards are now just \$15**, and you can buy them from the church or Day School offices during the week. Thank you for supporting First St. John's biggest ministry!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CONTINUES: We are extending our collection through March. We are collecting money and canned goods to help fund the Lutheran Social Services local food pantry. Every dollar you donate goes to purchase food for the pantry. (Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry is our monthly ministry outreach for February as well.) Grocery carts are available for your food donations, and a soup pot is in the Narthex to collect monetary donations—whatever you can give—to help Lutheran Social Services provide food for people in need.

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 in the lounge. Thanks!

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: I'm always very thankful for the volunteers who are on the front lines of this ministry. Presently, we are short two volunteers to hand out products to the clients. If you are interested, please contact me or Toni in the church office. -- *Karen Holmes*

CEMETERY CLEAN UP: We will have our semi-annual cemetery clean up on Saturday, April 9th at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed—the more hands we have, the quicker we finish! Please remove anything from a grave that you would like to keep—older decorations, grave blankets, and especially anything from Christmas—before April 9th. Thank you.

REMAINDER OF EVENTS FOR OUR 160th CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 1: Altar Guild Celebration
Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day and Quilter's Celebration
Sunday, May 15: Choir Celebration Sunday
Sunday, May 22: Vision Sunday
Sunday, May 29: Veterans Memorial Remembrance in Church
Monday, May 30: Veterans Memorial Remembrance in the Church and Cemetery at 8:00 am.
Saturday, June 4, 5:00 to 8:00 pm: Confirmation Alumnae Celebration's Summer Dance Party
Sunday, June 19: Father's Day, Graduate Recognition Sunday, Winslow Scholarship Award Presentation, and Remembrance of Past Scholarship Winners.

JESUS AND ME SUNDAY SCHOOL - YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED! Our JAM Sunday School attendance is extremely low, and we need your help. Whether the reasons are due to Covid, families out of town on Sundays, or sports tournaments on Sundays, it's clear the spiritual foundation that is so critical for our young children is being set aside in favor of other things. Please give this problem some thought, and if you have any suggestions or ideas you feel can help us bring back our children, please contact Sandhya Holston at 419-215-8970 or email her at diyah812@yahoo.com
Thank you so much.

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH for March is Lutheran Social Services (see above). Special envelopes will be in the pews starting next week if you would like to donate to this worthy cause. Make your check out to First St. John and write "LSS Food Pantry" on the memo line. Then place your envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Thank you.

SUMMER DANCE PARTY FOR CONFIRMATION ALUMNAE: Save the date--Saturday, June 4th at 5:00 pm in the gym. We are having a Confirmation Alumnae Summer Dance Party. If you were confirmed here at First St. John (and even if you weren't), come out and listen to the golden oldie hits spun by Bob "Elvis" Haar! Better yet, come and dance to the hits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. It's time to get groovy and let your hair down! Pizza and pop provided. Confirmation alumnae, their guests, and EVERYONE are invited. Call the church office at 419-691-7222 or Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 to RSVP—**deadline for reservations is Sunday, May 15th**. Get your confirmation class together to "bee-bop" and "doo-wop" the night away. See you there!!!!

MONETARY DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS WREATHS NEEDED: We are looking to purchase new Christmas wreaths for the inside church windows and the outside church doors for Christmas 2022. The clearance sales are great, so that's why we're buying now. We now are accepting donations so we can buy new wreaths. If you would like to help, please make a check out to First St. John Lutheran Church and write "Christmas Wreaths" on the memo line. Then you can either drop it in the mail or put it in with your regular offering if you come to in-person worship. Thank you for your help.

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES ANNUAL MEETING will be virtual this year. Please join them for their 162nd annual meeting on Thursday, April 7th at 6:30 pm. More details will follow as the date approaches. To make a reservation for the event, please call Bev at 419-861-4954 or email her at BApel@Genacross.org by March 31st.

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: Lutheran Disaster Response is partnering with Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service agencies in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to provide those fleeing Ukraine with immediate assistance such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits. Your help is desperately needed. You can call 1-800-638-3522 Monday – Friday from 8AM to 5PM Central Time to make a donation with a credit card. Or you can mail a check to Lutheran Disaster Response and write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on the memo line. Then send it to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

PORTAGE VALLEY FEDERATION OF LUTHERAN MEN & PASTORS SPRING MEETING will be Tuesday, April 5th at 5:30 pm at Luther Home of Mercy, 5810 N. Main St., Williston, OH. Speaker is Nancy Borders of Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Toledo. Their current outreach project is to help fund beds for residents of the Luther Home of Mercy. Individuals who want to support this cause but cannot attend may sent donations directly to: Ralph Aufdenkamp, Treasurer, 8369 Kramer Rd., Bowling Green, OH. 43402.