

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 26<sup>th</sup>***

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of David Winslow, given by Mike and Donna Winslow; and in loving memory of their daughter, Andrea Schumaker, on her birthday on March 1<sup>st</sup>, given by Jim and Dianne Schumaker.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

2-19-23: 8:00 am: 58    10:30 am: 77    Online: 84    Total: 219

JAM Sunday School: 7    Adult Bible Study: 10

Ash Wednesday-- 11:00 am: 31    7:00 pm: 32    Total: 63

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED**

Irene Abbott – Parkcliffe Community - Northwood

**PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES:** *Add:* Bob Davis, Family of Nancy Dangler, Family of Ken DeWitt, Jane Doe, Family of Nancy Gallaher, Annette McGorty, Family of Donald Meyer, Jack Millner, Logan Roberts, Bill Shedron, Kurt Steinhurst

**Ongoing Concerns:** Bennett, Elizabeth Bland, Karen Bless, Pastor Joe Brosious, Tracy Broyles, Bruce, Amy Brumley, Debbie Campbell, Lori Capitola, Greg Contat, Marjorie Counterman, Frances Cousino, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Emmalyn, Brian Everett, Janet Fern, Terry Filer, Anne Okonski Frank, Joe Frobase, Paulette Giaimo, Sarah Gladieux, Grace Harris Greenbank, Holly Henneman, Gary Henningsen, Sara Houghtaling, Kathy Johnson, Linda Joshi, Grant Kessler, Cindy Knavel, Tom Kohn, Eleanor Lang, Joyce Martin, Janet Mooney, Tina Mc Quillan, Bonnie Meier, Deborah Miller, Donna Miller, Karen Morrison, Logan Murphy, Rosann Murray, Norma Newell, Nick, Pam Pirolli, Craig Pym, Janet Quiroga, John Ranchan, Sherry Reamsnyder, John Rowley, Laura Scherer, Shelley Sherman, Connie Singlar, James Spenthoff, LuAnn Spoerl, Julie Swanson, Tom Tedrow, Joan Tilton, Joyce Trowbridge, Terry Vogalsang, Deb Dusseau Warnke, Katelyn Weirich, Brett Winslow, John Yard, Raetta Zeisler, Ruth Zasada, Rob Zunk

### **CALENDAR FOR FEB. 26 – MAR. 4**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	8:00 am	- Worship
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study
	9:15 am	- 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Catechism Class
	10:30 am	- Worship / Communion
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	9:30 am	- Quilting
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle
	11:00 am	- Lenten Service in Church
	6:30 pm	- Lenten Service in Church
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Bible Study
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle

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

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

**THANK YOU** to the Bell Choir for playing for us this morning.

**THANK YOU:** Please accept my grateful appreciation for the cards sent and the prayers said on my behalf after my surgeries the last few months. Hallelujah, though, I'm at home now recuperating. It may be awhile yet before I can get back to church, but I appreciate and still need your prayers. Thank you so much.

– Deacon Laura Scherer

**THANK YOU!** On behalf of Promedica Ebeid Children's Hospital, I would like to thank Jane Neal & Ginny Nissen and the Quilters, along with Jesse Henneman, on the dozens of beautiful children/baby quilts that were made and donated to the hospital. It is an amazing act of love for children, which the kids and the hospital are so grateful for. I also want to thank Sue Ann Rogers and the Sunday School kids for creating dozens of Valentine cards for the kids...it was such a kind and thoughtful way to put a smile on the kids' faces and also their parents.

– Chris Hunsaker

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES:** Stay with us throughout the season Lent as we hold weekly Lenten services each Wednesday in the church sanctuary at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm (note time change).

**DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:** We have some free devotional booklets for each day of the Lenten season. The booklets are titled, "Promised Treasures" and is a companion to our Lenten worship series this year. There are some on the countertop with the bulletins in the Narthex (lobby) and a few on the table outside the church office in the Educational Building.

**MARCH NEWSLETTERS** are available for pick up in the Narthex (lobby) and the lounge if that is how you have chosen to receive them.

**DID YOU KNOW?** A donation from the Marilyn Cashen family was used to purchase the new curtain behind the altar. We thank Marilyn's family for choosing to honor their mother by giving back to the church she loved.

**YOUTH GROUP 24-HOUR FAMINE:** The Youth group and all who'd like to participate will hold a 24-hour famine beginning on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at noon. Throughout the event, students will learn about hunger and how to help feed and care for those living in poverty--all the while being hungry themselves. They will also get the ability to learn about real-world issues of poverty and injustice through the lens of the Bible. At the conclusion of the event, all will enjoy a meal after the 10:30 service on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The youth are encouraged to get sponsors for each hour of the retreat. Any monies raised will be donated to the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal. This event is open to all youth ages 12 to 18 years old. Friends are welcome! To register for this event, please visit the church website and click on the "Ministries" tab, followed by the Famine Page. Able-bodied parent volunteers also are needed for meal prep and also to help with the youth to help with the youth. If you are interested in helping out in any way or have questions about the event itself, please email Jacob Kelly at [fsjyouth@firststjohn.com](mailto:fsjyouth@firststjohn.com)

**HOW KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM HELPS FIRST ST. JOHN:** By creating an account with Kroger and linking your card to our church's code, your purchases automatically begin accumulating rewards every time you use your card (excluding some purchases). Visit the website at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up. First create an account, then under your profile select an organization to be your designated community reward recipient. You'll need your e-mail address and your Kroger Plus Card number (located on the back of the card). Once your account is set up, select First St. John Lutheran Church by using our designated number: #83476 Thank you for your support!

**RUTH CIRCLE NEWS:** We will meet Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the lounge. Our Bible study is on Samuel in our "Men of the Bible" study book.

**EASTER FLOWER SALE** begins next TODAY. Lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips are again available to choose from. Plants are \$15 this year, and the deadline for turning in orders is Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are in the Sunday bulletins and the March newsletter.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH 5th:** Our collection of money and canned goods to help fund the Lutheran Social Services local food pantry continues. Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchase food for the pantry. (Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry will be our monthly ministry outreach for February as well.) A grocery cart for food donations and a soup pot for monetary donations are in the Narthex. Whatever you can give, either food or money, will help Lutheran Social Services provide food for people in need.

**MOVIE NIGHT IS BACK!** Our next movie night is Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Founder's Fellowship Hall (formerly known as the gym). Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, and the movie starts at about 6:15 pm. The movie is called "What If." *Synopsis: Fifteen years ago Ben Walker left his college sweetheart and his calling to be a preacher in order to pursue a business opportunity. Now he has a high-paying executive job, a trophy fiancé, and a new Mercedes, but he hasn't considered family life or felt the need to step foot in a church. But God has other plans. Ben gets to live his life as it might have been if he had followed his true calling, and he gets a chance to discover faith and family.* The menu includes turkey & ham sliders, Costco cookies, snacks, pop, and water. Bring your own stadium chair if you'd like. The event itself is free; a freewill offering will help cover the cost of food. The elevator will be available. Everyone is welcome—invite your friends!

**CEMETERY CLEAN UP DAY:** Our semi-annual cemetery clean up day will be Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed—the more hands we have, the quicker we finish! NOTE: Please remove anything from a grave that you would like to keep—older decorations, grave blankets, and especially anything from Christmas—before March 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**NEW PERSONAL SOUND AMPLIFIERS:** We have three replacement personal sound amplifiers for the ones that were misplaced after the church renovation (we have ordered two more). The headphones will work in the new amplifiers. For those who are hard of hearing, please ask the elders for one prior to the service.

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS ITEM** for February is paper towels. For those who plan ahead, our focus item for March is toilet paper. Please deposit your items in the green bin in the lounge or in the left pull out bin under the main bulletin board in the Narthex (lobby).

**MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH:** Our monthly outreach for February is Lutheran Social Services. Special envelopes are in the pews 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. (The outreach campaign for March will be Lutheran Disaster Response.)

**TOILET PAPER COLLECTION:** The East Region Churches United (a group of east side churches) has identified one of the most critical "top ten" needs in our community is toilet paper. We, along with other churches in this area, will be collecting toilet paper. Please place your donations in the alcove behind the Welcome Center in the Narthex. All collected rolls will be distributed to Food for Thought, our own Personal Needs Pantry, Ashland Church, Birmingham Food Pantry, Jerusalem Township Food Pantry, and other ministries in need. Monetary donations are also acceptable. Just make out your check to First St. John and write ERCU in the memo line. You can place your check in the offering plate. Thank you!

**NEWS ABOUT OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY PHONE APP:** This app allows you to access the church directory on your phone. This is helpful if you don't have a directory with you and need to look up a member's number or address. Addresses and phone numbers are kept current on this app, so you can get the latest contact information in case someone has moved or changed phone numbers. Recently, United Church Directories must have reloaded their software, so if you are currently using this app, you'll need to reenter your assigned code. Please call or email Toni in the church office to get your code.

**DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN:** Registration for the 2023-2024 fall Day School program has begun. The registration fee is waived for active members of the church, but you must still complete a registration form to reserve a spot for your child. The form can be found online at [www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org) Children must be at least 3 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. We also will have our Summer Child Care program for children ages 3-12 years old. The Day School will host summer camps each week with a different theme. Both children needing childcare and children looking for fun activities will be welcome. Watch for more on that in the coming weeks!

**WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE:** This scholarship is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and who will attend college for the 2023/2024 school year. Applications are in the church office. Stop by any time during office hours to pick up an application or contact Toni in the church office to have a copy emailed to you. Turn in your completed application to the church office by March 31<sup>st</sup> to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

**CEMETERY NEWS:** Ruth Price attended a presentation given by "Wreaths Across America" and learned that each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, this group coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,700 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad. Their mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach. We currently have 105 veterans buried in our cemetery, and we at First St. John would like to take part in this beautiful tribute to our veterans that will take place on December 16, 2023. Volunteers will place the wreaths on each grave and return at a later date to remove and discard them. A nominal cost for each wreath was taken from the Cemetery Fund. At this time, we are asking for donations to replace these funds. If you'd like to help, please send your donation to the church office or give it to Ruth Price. Checks should be made out to First St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery Fund, with a notation on the memo line: "Wreaths Across America." Thank you for supporting this beautiful tribute.

**HELP WANTED - CHOIR DIRECTOR:** We still need a choir director. Please put the word out to anyone you know who may be interested or who may know someone else who might be. This is a paid, part-time position. Responsibilities include directing the choir, assisting with music for worship and special services, along with over-sight and coordination of the church's music program. For more information and a job description, please call Pastor Rayl at 567-395-0143. Questions or resumes should be directed to his attention at, [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com), or mailed to the church office. Thanks for your help!

**HELP FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS:** Two powerful earthquakes have hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Turkey, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 40,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates the response efforts. If you'd like to help, a form for mailing your check appears in today's bulletin. Or, you can give online: [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Middle-East-Crisis](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Middle-East-Crisis)

**LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF MERCY ANNUAL MEETING** will be Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at The Pinnacle on Indian Wood Circle in Maumee. Doors open at 5:30 with grazing, dessert, and beverage stations at 5:45. The meeting begins at 6:30. The theme is "Many Voices, One Story." To register, call Karen Shaffer at 419-972-4394 or email her at [kshaffe@lutherhome.org](mailto:kshaffe@lutherhome.org) Tickets are \$30; you can register and pay on-line at [www.lutheranministriesofmercy.org](http://www.lutheranministriesofmercy.org) Please RSVP by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD GIVEAWAY:** The monthly neighborhood giveaway program at St. Mark Lutheran Church on Woodville Rd. is in need of new and gently used bedding, pillows, towels, household miscellaneous, toiletries, (including partial bottles of perfume and lotions), cleaning products - including partial bottles, new underwear, and bras - any size. Their food pantry is in urgent need of peanut butter.