

ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 23rd

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Kris Ensign, given by Darold Henninger; in honor of Tom Hartford's birthday, given by anonymous; and in loving memory of Ken Villhauer on his birthday on April 20th, given by his family.

MESSENGERS are presented in honor of Tyler Abbey, his Aunt Shannon Abbey Aschemeier, and his dad Ryan Abbey, and in loving memory of his great-grandmother on their April birthdays, given by the Abbey family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

4-16-23: 8:00 am: 43 10:30 am: 106 Online: 38 Total: 187
JAM Sunday School: 3 Adult Bible Study: 9

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Jean DeWitt – Orchard Villa
Herb Frey – Elizabeth Scott Rehab

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES: *Add:* Bill Zemnicki Family, Family of Irene Abbott, Family of Keith Lofquist, Jean DeWitt, Kate Gladieux, Family of Brenda Seimet, Family of Paulette Giaimo, Kelley Allred, Lori Ansted, Herb Frey, Bishop Marcus Lohrmann, Janet Mooney, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, Jean Ross, Bernie Zielinski

Ongoing Concerns: Bennett, Elizabeth Bland, Karen Bless, Pastor Joe Brosious, Bruce, Amy Brumley, Debbie Campbell, Lori Capitola, Greg Contat, Marjorie Counterman, Bob Davis, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Jane Doe, Emmalyn, Brian Everett, Janet Fern, Terry Filer, Joe Frobese, Sarah Gladieux, Grace Harris Greenbank, Holly Henneman, Gary Henningsen, Kathy Johnson, Linda Joshi, Grant Kessler, Cindy Knavel, Tom Kohn, Eleanor Lang, Joyce Martin, Annette McGorty, Tina Mc Quillan, Bonnie Meier, Deborah Miller, Donna Miller, Jack Millner, Karen Morrison, Logan Murphy, Rosann Murray, Nick, Pam Pirolli, Janet Quiroga, John Ranchan, Sherry Reamsnyder, John Rowley, Laura Scherer, Bill Shedron, Shelley Sherman, Connie Singlar, James Spenthoff, LuAnn Spoerl, Kurt Steinhurst, 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 APR. 23 – APR. 29

Today	8:00 am	- Worship
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School
	9:15 am	- Retirement Reception in Lounge
	9:15 am	- First Year Catechism Class
	10:30 am	- Worship / Communion
	11:30 am	- Retirement Reception in Lounge
Monday	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
Thursday	11:00 am	- Bible Study
Saturday	8:00 am	- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's til 10:00 am
	8:30 am	- Breakfast Fellowship Group – Meet at Applebee's

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!

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Irene Abbott who passed away last Sunday. The funeral will be private.

“SOCKS FOR SALEM” THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who donated. We collected 179 pairs of socks and four pairs of mittens, which will be given to Salem Lutheran Church downtown for their ministry to the needy in the downtown area.

THANK YOU to everyone for all the cards, prayers, and help given during my recovery from surgery. I'm so grateful to everyone.
-- Emily Kruse

THANK YOU! The choir would like to thank Dr. Pattin for taking the time to direct us and teach us our Easter anthem. We also want to thank Adam Ladd for playing the trumpet during our song and Cheri Sergent for directing us. We couldn't have done it without you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We will need a few volunteers to help out in the church office from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day during the first two weeks of May. Tasks include answering the phone and doors, sorting and distributing mail, etc. If you can help on any of those days (May 1 – 5th, May 8th – 12th) or **even a few hours** on any of those days, please call the church office at 419-691-7222. Thank you!

RETIREMENT RECEPTION TODAY: You're invited to a retirement reception for our office manager, Toni Wilbarger, today in the lounge after both services.

CINCO DE MAYO PARTY: The Day School invites everyone to a Fiesta luncheon and fundraiser in our gym on Saturday, May 6th from noon to 3:00 pm. Come on out for great food, treasure hunt, raffle prizes, and more!

CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED: With the resignation of our former church treasurer, we are searching for someone to take her place. Applicant must be a member of First St. John. Duties include: supervise the financial procedures, records and investments of the congregation; render a monthly statement of income and expenses compared to the budget; deliver an annual financial report to the congregation; be a member of the budget and/or planning committee or finance committee; and recommend written financial policies and procedures for cash management (e.g., annual budgeting, fund accounting, and annual audit to the church council; and prepare annual report to the congregation. Interested persons can contact Mark Ackerman (419-345-6934) or Brenda Fussell (419-367-7944).

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED: Carol Haar has resigned from the Finance Committee. If anyone is interested in joining the committee to fill her spot or if you have any questions, please contact Mark Ackerman (419-345-6934) or Brenda Fussell (419-367-7944).

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: Our lesson was on Mary and Martha, and our focus is "Jesus is our one thing." Our memory verse: "There is need of only one thing." This lesson is about distractions. We get distracted and do not concentrate our minds and life on the one true gift, Jesus. Please save the date, May 14th, Mother's Day. We are practicing songs to sing in church at 10:30 and we hope all of you will join us. Another date to mark on your calendar is April 30th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The JAM Board and Teachers are planning a bowling night for the students and their family. Also, the Day School is holding a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's the morning of April 29th. See announcements below for more information about both events. We hope all will join us to fellowship with others from our church and Day School, and we look forward to seeing you and your child on Sundays at 9:15 am.

FREE CHALKBOARD: A six-foot long chalkboard on wheels is downstairs in the JAM Sunday School area in the church basement. This is free to anyone who would like it.

GUEST SPEAKERS IN MAY: We will have two guest speakers in May during the 9:15 am hour in the lounge. Don't miss these informative presentations! **Sunday, May 7th:** Michael George of Genacross Lutheran Services will report and answer questions about the latest news from Genacross ministries. **Sunday, May 21st:** Here at First St. John we've been collecting for Wreaths Across America. Doug Sweeney from that organization will answer questions about this important ministry. Members of this ministry place wreaths on the graves of departed veterans in cemeteries across the United States. For the first time and thereafter, First St. John will participate in this program beginning at Christmas this year. Join us for interesting information, discussion, and a light breakfast.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST: Formerly the Men's & Women's Breakfast Fellowship, we are now combining our groups. Our next breakfast will be Saturday, April 29th at 8:30 am at the Applebee's near Meijer. We will be supporting our Day School at their Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. See you there!

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE:

Sunday, May 7 at 9:15 am, Speaker Michael George from Genacross
Sunday, May 14 at 9:15 am, Special Mother's Day Bible Study
Sunday, May 21 at 9:15 am, Speaker Doug Sweeney from Wreathes Across America.
Sunday, May 28 - No Bible Study
Monday, May 29, at 8:00 am in the lounge - Special memorial day tribute with Doug Sweeney as our guest speaker.

Coffee and donuts provided for all events. Hope to see you there.

PRAYER BUDDY REVEAL LUNCHEON: All those who have been praying for one of the children or the staff in our Day School's begindergarten class, you will finally get to meet them! You are invited to a lunch on Sunday, May 21st from noon to 2:00 pm in the Founders' Fellowship Hall (gym). Please RSVP to the school office at 419-691-6480 or email fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com. Thank you so much for your prayers for our begindergarten students and staff during this school year.

STADIUM SALSA FUNDRAISER: First St. John Day School is having a Stadium Salsa fundraiser with 50% of the proceeds going to the school. This is the salsa, sauces, and chips served at the Mud Hens and Walleye games. Jars of salsa (mild, medium, hot, pineapple habanero, or XXHOT Holy Toledo), Mexicali dip, chips, and hot wing and Xolotl hot sauce are on sale. Cost is \$6 per jar and \$4 for chips. Someone will be in the Narthex (lobby) after worship today if you'd like to purchase some today. If paying by check, make it out to "First St. John Day School" and either drop it off at the office or mail it in. You can also order through the school's website at www.firststjohndayschool.org. You can preorder from the school office during the week, or call 419-691-6480. Pick up is at church. **NOTE: The deadline for orders is Friday, April 28th.** Don't miss this great addition to your spread of game day snacks!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER: This pancake breakfast will be at Applebee's (near Meijer's) on Saturday, April 29th from 8 - 10:00 am. All proceeds help support our Day School. The cost of the breakfast is \$10. Menu includes three pancakes, two slices of bacon, and beverage of your choice. You can purchase tickets today after worship in the Narthex (lobby), from the church and Day School offices during the week, and you also can buy them at the door. Breakfast will be served by the Day School teachers and board members. You can purchase tickets from the Day School or church office after Easter. Thank you in advance for your support!

FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT: Families of JAM (Jesus And Me Sunday School) children and also the families of Day School children are invited for a fun evening of bowling at Interstate Lanes in Rossford on Sunday, April 30th from 4–6 pm. Food, drinks, bowling, and shoes will be taken care of for all JAM families! If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Stacy Donley at stacydonley16@gmail.com with the number of people in your party who will be bowling so we can reserve enough lanes. See you there!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: We will hold a special congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7th after both services to vote on whether to change our Sunday worship schedule to just one service each Sunday. Members who attended discussion meetings the last several weeks filled out a comment sheet. Those responses have been compiled and are available to pick up from the lounge or Narthex (lobby). Please plan on attending this meeting on May 7th.

ANNUAL CARD PARTY MAY 9th The 30th annual Card Party and Luncheon is Tuesday, May 9th at noon in our Founders' Fellowship Hall (elevator available). Cost is \$13, 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), Jane Schuetz (419-691-5506), or Emily Kruse at 419-836-5473. Everyone is welcome!

DONATIONS FOR CARD PARTY: We need donations for our card party raffle. Raffle prizes should have values at least \$25 (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 \$5 to \$10, like gift certificates, dish towels, small items from stores like Bath & Body Works, etc. Boxes are in the lounge and Narthex (lobby) for your donations of both types of prizes. Thank you!

CARRUTH FUNDRAISER – CATALOGS AVAILABLE! WELCA is selling beautiful Carruth sculptures as part of a spring fundraiser. They make great gifts for Mother's Day, weddings, birthdays, housewarming, etc. The sale runs for the entire month of May. Catalogs are now available in the lounge and the Narthex (lobby) for you to review, or you can view the inventory online. See future Sunday announcements and the May newsletter for more information. Contact Chris Hunsaker in the evenings (5 - 9 pm) at 419-376-7363 or email chriscr@aol.com with questions.

SECRETARY - HELP WANTED: Toni Wilbarger is retiring at the end of April. Here is the Help Wanted information for her position. Please pass this along to anyone you think may be interested: Administrative Assistant for busy church office. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office software and possess excellent written, verbal and telephone communication skills. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter, very organized, able to work with volunteers and people of all ages, and give attention to detail. Competitive salary, full time position (30 to 35 hours). Interested persons should email resumes to Rev. Jerald Rayl at pastor1@firststjohn.com

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH: Our monthly outreach for April is Salem Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo. (Our outreach for May is FSJ's Member Assistance Fund.) If you would like to donate to Salem's ministry, please use the blue envelopes in the pews and place your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you!

HELP NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Believe it or not, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is right around the corner and we need your help! Vacation Bible School will be held Tuesday, July 18th – Friday, July 21st from 6:00 -- 8:30 pm each night. If you would like to be a group leader, station leader or part of the setup and tear down crew, please contact our Youth and Family Minister Jacob Kelly at fsjyouth@firststjohn.com or 419-356-2690. Also, a small dinner will be served in the gym from 5:15-5:45 pm every night, so we'll need help there as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jacob. Everyone is welcome!

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, or mailed to the church office. Thanks for your help!

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS ITEM: The focus item for April is facial tissues (no travel sizes, please). If you're planning ahead, our focus item for May is men's and women's deodorant. Please deposit your donation items in the green bin in the lounge or in the left pull out bin under the main bulletin board in the Narthex (lobby). Thank you!

DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: 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 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!

YMCA SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS: We would like to contribute to the YMCA's 2023 Campaign to raise funds for its Child Care and Summer Camp scholarships and other programs that serve the needy in our community, such as "lunch and learn" for older adults and health and well-being classes for youth and adults. The Eastern Community YMCA also has two childcare centers for infants through school age children. If you would like to contribute, please make a check out to "Eastern YMCA" and either place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Mike Winslow will be collecting for this cause through April 30th. For more information, you can go online to www.ymcatoledo.org