

*ANNOUNCEMENTS – September 3<sup>rd</sup>*

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Charles Neal on their anniversary, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, given by Jane Neal; In honor of Darold Henninger's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, given by Debbie Henninger; and in memory of my special friend, Peggy Torda, given by Sandy Stahl and family.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

8-20-23: 9:00 am: 79 Online: 43 Total: 122

**OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED**

*None at the time of printing.*

**PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES:** *Add:* Family of Peggy Torda, Donna Winslow, Ruth Ziethlow

Ongoing Concerns: Lori Ansted, Jessica Baron, Bennett, Elizabeth Bland, Karen Bless, Pastor Joe Brosious, Bruce, Amy Brumley, Debbie Campbell, Brittany Collins, Greg Contat, Marjorie Counterman, Family of Sandra Counterman-Frazier, Bob Davis, Olivia & Delaney Dawkins, Jane Doe, Janet Fern, Terry Filer, Bob Foss, James Fox, Herb Frey, Joe Frobase, Sarah Gladioux, Grace Harris Greenbank, Holly Henneman, Gary Henningsen, Katrin Howard, Kathy Johnson, Linda Joshi, Grant Kessler, Cindy Knavel, Tom Kohn, Eleanor Lang, Family of Joyce Martin, Annette McGorty, Tina McQuilin, Bonnie Meier, Patty Meyer, Deborah Miller, Donna Miller, Jack Millner, Kari Montag, Janet Mooney, Karen Morrison, Sawyer Mullen, Logan Murphy, Rosann Murray, Family of Charles Nelms, Family of Norma Newel, Nick, Pam Pirolli, Janet Quiroga, John Ranchan, Sherry Reamsnyder, Steven Riegle, Logan Roberts, John Rowley, Kevin Ruedy, Sandy, Laura Scherer, Tim Schmidlin, Janice Sheahan, Bill Shedron, Shelley Sherman, Connie Singlar, Linda Smith, Jerry Smith, Family of Louise Sommers, James Spenthoff, Julie Swanson, Tom Tedrow, Joan Tilton, Peggy Torda, Joyce Trowbridge, Craig Traver, Terry Vogalsang, Deb Dusseau Warnke, Katelyn Weirich, Jean Wilson, John Yard, Ruth Zasada, Raetta Zeisler, Bernie Zielinski

**CALENDAR FOR SEP.3 – SEP.9**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	9:00 am	- Worship
<b><u>Monday</u></b>		- LABOR DAY – CHURCH AND SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Ruth Circle Meeting
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle Meeting
	5:30 pm	- Choir Potluck and Rehearsal
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle Meeting

**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 Peggy Torda who passed away this past week. Funeral arrangements were still pending at the time of this printing. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**THE NEXT FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** will happen on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at Woodville Diner (1949 Woodville Rd, Oregon, OH). Please join us for breakfast, devotions, and good Christian fellowship. Questions? Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

**CHOIR POTLUCK/REHEARSAL** will be held on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6 pm with rehearsal to follow from 6-7:30 pm. A sign-up sheet was shared at the last rehearsal. Everyone should bring their own drinks. The choir's first performance will be on September 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our return to two services. Hope to see you there!

**BELL CHOIR** is looking for people to join us starting Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> in the church at 5:30 pm. We will give you instructions on how to hold and ring the bell. Come and give it a try! Contact Cheri Sergent for any questions at (419) 410-3572.

**FALL SUNDAY SCHEDULE:** Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup> we will return to our regular Sunday worship schedule, which will be two services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Rally Day will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> with an after party held after the second service. The following will start on September 24<sup>th</sup>:

9:15 am – Adult Bible Study in the lounge

9:15 am – J.A.M. (Jesus And Me) Sunday School

**RALLY DAY & AFTER PARTY!** Make sure you are here on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> when we will kick off our JAM (Jesus And Me) fall season after the second service. This includes a picnic, Kona Ice, a bouncy slide, cornhole, face painting, and games! Everyone eats free! Also, there will be an opportunity for your child to have their handprint added to our beautiful mural if they did not get a chance during VBS. Come hungry for God's word, food, and fellowship, and lots of fun. Don't forget on this day that the Day School children also will be singing in church. See you soon!

**HELP NEEDED!** We are in need of some volunteers for Rally Day. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Sandyha Holston, Stacey Donley, or Gwynne Lorenzen, or email Jennifer in the church office at [office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com).

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** Children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpacks with them to church during the 10:30 am service on Rally Day, September 17<sup>th</sup>. During the service, pastor will bless all the backpacks and the children who will carry them during the new school year.

**CHAPEL COMMUNION NOTICE:** On September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will begin meeting again for Chapel Communion. We will meet the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm in the Chapel, located on the middle floor of the Educational Building across from the church office.

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** Starting on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in the lounge, Pastor will again host a Thursday morning bible study focusing on the book of Ecclesiastes. Please plan to join him weekly!

**ATTENTION!** During some of the recent building maintenance, a water leak in the cemetery was discovered. Until further notice, the water will be shut off to the cemetery while we investigate this issue. We apologize for any inconvenience!

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTERS** are now available! All members and non-members requesting an email should have received them. Those requesting a hard copy mailed to them should have received them already or will early next week as they have been mailed out. Hardcopies are also available in the Narthex (lobby) or in the lounge. Please email Jennifer ([office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)) if you did not receive it or would like to be added to the list.

**FIRST-YEAR CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Parents of children in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in starting 1st-year confirmation classes should contact Pastor Rayl before September 10<sup>th</sup> at [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com) or (567) 395-0143, or via the church office, 419-691-7222.

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY COORDINATOR NEEDED!** We are in need of a new personal needs pantry coordinator as Karen Holmes will be stepping down at the end of this year. This is a volunteer job that averages about 12-15 hours of time a month. It involves ordering and stocking the pantry items, collecting and recording the weekly data, sharing the data monthly with Lutheran Social Services, and creating the yearly schedule for the volunteers. Karen is willing to train someone over the next few months and assist him/her, as needed. If you have any questions about the operation of the pantry or would like more details, please feel free to contact Karen at 419-279-4289.

**WE ARE HIRING!** We are starting the search for a Facility Maintenance Manager. The primary function will be to perform the custodial duties and perform light maintenance work in the church and educational building, along with assisting the trustees in being present for outsourced inspections and repairs. A full job description will be available soon and posted throughout the building and online. For more information, please contact Andrew Hodges, Pastor Rayl ([pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com)), or contact the church office (419-691-7222).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for Sunday, September 17, at 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge for the first annual "How Well Do You Know Your Bible?" quiz. Join the Adult Bible Study group as we test our Bible knowledge. Prizes will be given out for first and second place and coffee and doughnuts will be served.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on **September 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am** in the lounge and the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month during the school year.

**MIRIAM CIRCLE** will meet on **September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am** in the lounge and the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month during the school year.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet next on Saturday, **September 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am** in the lounge due to the Labor Day holiday.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet next on Wednesday, **September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** to kick off the new year.

**ALTAR GUILD** will meet next on Monday, **September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the lounge.

**DARTBALL STARTS SOON!** First St. John #1 & #2 teams will be hosting the first night on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the educational building (gym area). Please mark your calendars. If any questions, please reach out to Bill Nelson or Bob Haar.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** Will begin on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please join our Sunday Adult Bible Study group held every Sunday Morning at 9:15 am in the lounge. We will study the gospel lesson from that Sunday each week. We will also enjoy coffee, tea, and donuts. See or call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 for more info.

**CEMETERY CLEAN-UP REMINDER:** Fall clean-up of the cemetery will be done on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please remove any decorative items from the gravestones that you wish to keep BEFORE the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to avoid them being taken down.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** The July-September copies of Portals of Prayer are available in the Narthex (lobby), in the caddy on the wall outside the church, and in the lounge for pick-up. You can also pick up during the week at the church office, or request a copy be mailed to you at the church office at 419-691-7222 ([office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com))

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP:** Flowers on Sundays beautify the sanctuary and are dedicated to the glory of God. You can assist by signing up and using it as an opportunity to honor/remember a loved one. The flower sign-up book is in the narthex, \$15/vase or call the church office, at 419-691-7222. There are also weekly opportunities to honor or remember loved ones by donating the cost of messengers (\$10) homebound reach (\$10) and chancel lighting (\$15).

**WEEKLY READERS NEEDED!** Starting in September, weekly lesson readers are needed for each service. This is an important job and a great way to serve our church! A monthly calendar is created based on our volunteers and you do not need to do both services! Contact Jennifer ([office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)) or call the office at 419-691-7222 for more info or to sign up! Your help is greatly appreciated!

**MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH** for September will be our very own St. John Lutheran Day School! Did you know that FSJ Lutheran Day School has been a ministry of our church for the past 46 years!? The school strives to prepare students for the academic, social, intellectual, and spiritual challenges they will face as they grow and mature as well as help them develop their unique God-given gifts. The school's staff of 10 does an amazing job of showing the love of Jesus to the children who enter their walls. *To support this effort, please place your check in the yellow envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate.*

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS ITEM:** The focus item for September will be **adult and baby shampoo**. *No travel sizes, please, as the product is supposed to last for a month.* 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).