

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Edna Caldwell & Alice Koenig on their birthday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, given by Bill & Cathy Caldwell; and in loving memory of William Weiner, given by Connie, Matthew, Kara & families.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

11-12-23: 8:00 am: 23    10:30 am: 77    Online: *none*    Total: 100  
JAM Sunday School: 5    Adult Bible Study: 9

**OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*Teresa Nye – University of Toledo Medical Center*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Esther Bell, Peggy Burke, Brenda Chambers, Family of Herb Frey, Fred Kruse, Darlene Lorenzen, Ryleigh Hess, Teresa Nye, Logan Roberts, Tim Schmidlin, Jerry Smith, Linda Smith, Greg Wagner, Dr. Joan Walldorf, Steve Welling, Arlene Wilbarger.

***\*\*In an effort to better manage the prayer chain, only critical and new requests will be printed in the weekly announcements. All ongoing requests will be posted in the lounge, and narthex (lobby), and be included in the monthly newsletter. If you have any additions or changes to the prayer chain, please email office@firststjohn.com\*\****

**CALENDAR FOR NOV 19. – NOV.25**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	8:00 am	- Early Worship/Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School
	10:30 am	- Late Worship
	11:45 am	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Catechism
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	6:30 pm	- WELCA meeting
	7:30 pm	- Dartball (see schedule)
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	7:00 pm	- Church Council Meeting
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	ALL DAY	- CHURCH OFFICE OPEN / DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	ALL DAY	- HAPPY THANKSGIVING! (office and school closed)
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	ALL DAY	- CHURCH OFFICE OPEN / DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

**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!

**2023 POINSETTIA SALE** is now underway. Please see the order form located in the bulletin, or included in the November Newsletter to order. Each poinsettia is \$15 each and you can choose between red or white. The deadline for placing orders in time for Christmas is Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. **Payment must accompany orders.** Contact Jennifer in the church office for more information (419) 691-7222.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD EXTENDED:** If you have not had a chance to fill a shoebox for Operation Christmas child you are in luck! The last day to return a filled shoebox is **TODAY, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Deb Ladd plans to deliver them after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service today. She needs a few people willing to help carry the boxes to her car after service today. Meet in the front by the Bell Choir tables.

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** will not meet this Thursday again due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Plan to meet again on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> in the lounge to continue our study in Ecclesiastes.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** Please join us every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge for our Adult Bible Study hour. Each Sunday we study the day's Gospel lesson by using the three Cs- Context, Character, and Conclusions. Please join us for coffee, tea, donuts, and Bible study. Questions? See Bob Haar.

**DARTBALL** The next Dartball matches will be held on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Both teams will play at home this week, so come out and support them! Team #2 has 8 wins and 4 losses, and Team #1 has 6 wins and 6 losses in the standings.

**DISCOUNT CARD FUNDRAISER:** The FSJ Day School is once again selling discount cards. For \$20 you will enjoy discounts at many different local businesses for an entire year. The card will pay for itself after just a few uses. Buy one today from either the Church or Day School office or online at [www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org). They make great gifts. Some of the featured businesses are Salad Galley, Black Forest Café, El Camino Real, Dairy Depot, and Beth Allan Florists just to name a few. Please consider supporting this Day School fundraising effort! You can pick one up from Jennifer in the church office as well M-F 9am-4pm.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Chicken and Ham Drive-Thru dinner. All of you did such a great job!!! Even the ones who managed on the little tricycles. We could not have done this without the help the Board had. Thanks to everyone who made and brought Brownies in as well. We made \$2345.96. Great job!!! We could not have done any of this without all of you!!

~ Sue Ann Rogers

**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that helped this past week with the FSJ Day School Thanksgiving Feast! It definitely could not have been successful without the help of the wonderful ladies of the church and all our volunteers who helped cook the feast, or setup! The feast is such a blessing for all the kids and their families who attended! Thank you!

~ Andrea Buckley

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** These will be ready for pick up in the next few weeks. If you do not have envelopes and would like some assigned to you, please call Jennifer in the church office as soon as you can at 419-691-7222.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP NEEDED:** Come help beautify the church for the Christmas Season! Much help is needed this coming Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am in the church. We will also need a few able-bodied people to help setup the Christmas Tree. Thank you in advance!

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY** Mark your calendars for the FSJ Family Christmas Party. It will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the gym. Thanks to our FSJ Church Council, this catered dinner will now be **FREE** of charge to attend (this is a correction to the info printed in the November newsletter). Please fill out the RSVP form below and drop in the offering plate!



**FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

SPONSORED BY WELCA



Mark your calendars for the **FSJ Family Christmas Party** that will be held on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the gym. 5:30pm will be a social time, with dinner beginning at 6pm and entertainment to follow afterwards provided by the Waite HS Orchestra. We will be serving a catered lasagna dinner. Thanks to our FSJ Church Council, this catered dinner will be **FREE** of charge to all who attend (this is a correction to the info printed in the November newsletter). Please RSVP below for your family. Please indicate all who will be attending.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults attending \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children attending \_\_\_\_\_

***\*\*Drop in the offering plate\*\****

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

**THE NEXT FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** There will not be a fellowship breakfast in November. The next fellowship breakfast will happen on Saturday, December 2nd at 8:30 am at Woodville Diner (1949 Woodville Rd, Oregon, OH). Please join us in December again for breakfast, devotions, and good Christian fellowship. Questions? Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

**BISHOP BEAUDOIN TO SPEAK** on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** during the worship services. We have invited Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the Northwestern Ohio Synod to worship and share the sermon. We will also make a special presentation of a tithe from an estate gift from a FSJ member. Please plan to attend!

**SECRET SANTA** Majestic Care of Toledo is asking for churches to help adopt a resident(s) for Christmas. This year they are asking for gift bags filled for a man or a woman. *Some examples of items to include are: Hard Candy/Sugar Free Candy, Candy Bars (no nuts), Puzzle books, coloring books, colored pencils or markers, body wash/cologne/perfume, hand or body lotion, seasonal window clings, shaving crème, stationary/stamps, pens/pencils, lip balm, fleece throws, stuffed animals, 2024 room calendars, cookies (no nuts), Jigsaw Puzzles (300 pieces or less), shampoo/conditioner, head bands/barrettes, combs/brushes, non-slip sock, or gloves/hats.* The deadline to donate a gift bag is **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please label if it is for a man or woman. Please drop off your donation in the church office to Jennifer and she will coordinate getting them to Majestic Care. You may also drop off in the lounge on the white table and Jennifer will collect. Thank you!

**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER** The November newsletter is available in the narthex (lobby) or the lounge. We have had some members report that they are not receiving the emailed version anymore. We haven't been able to diagnose the issue, so please feel free to reach out to Jennifer in the church office if you have not received and she can resend it.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** The October-December 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))

**MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH** for November will be The ELCA World Hunger Fund. More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. *To support this effort, please place your check in the pink envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate.*

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS ITEM:** The focus item for November will be **sanitary pads (24 pack or larger) or tampons**. *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).

**ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED** If you would like to place flowers on the altar to honor or remember a loved one, you can use the red sign up book *under the main bulletin board in the narthex (lounge)*. Find the Sunday you'd like and jot down the information needed. Flower vases are \$15 each; use an envelope out of the book for payment. Either place it in the small box next to the book, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. We need at least 2 vases each week. **2024 FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS** for January through October will be in the book starting next week.

**REBECCA CIRCLE:** Will meet next on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am at Spaghetti Warehouse. If interested in participating in the gift exchange, please bring a \$10 gift with you.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER** Please consider helping WELCA with their Christmas Cookie Sale that will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> after both services. To participate and help raise funds plan to bring your baked cookies on Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> between 10-12pm. All types of cookies, fudge, bars, or bark accepted. There is a sign-up sheet available in the lounge on a clipboard or complete the form in the bulletin and place in the offering plate. All funds raised will be donated to the Property Management group to help with maintenance and repairs in the building. Contact Sue Ann Rogers for more information (419) 280-1310.