

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

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God by the Altar Guild.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

11-19-23: 8:00 am: 49    10:30 am: 73    Online: 25    Total: 147  
JAM Sunday School: 8    Adult Bible Study: 10

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*Teresa Nye – University of Toledo Medical Center*  
*Peggy Burke – Toledo Hospital*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Esther Bell, Peggy Burke, Brenda Chambers, Family of Herb Frey, Ryleigh Hess, Fred Kruse, Janet Mooney, Teresa Nye, Logan Roberts, Tim Schmidlin, Jerry Smith, Linda Smith, Greg Wagner, 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 26. – DEC.2**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	8:00 am	- Early Worship
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School
	10:30 am	- Late Worship/Communion
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Bible Study in the lounge
	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	8:30 am	- Fellowship Breakfast at Woodville Diner
	10:00 am	- Setup for Family Christmas Party in Founders Hall
	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle at Spaghetti Warehouse

**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!

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE UPDATE:** As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will have one morning service at 10:30 am with Holy Communion, and then evening services at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm. On Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> there will be NO worship service.

**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.

**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.

**THANKS TO YOU!** Thanks to everyone who donated shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 79 boxes to the drop off point for Samaritans Purse. Thanks to your generous hearts, 79 children around the world will receive a gift to open at Christmas.

~ Deb Ladd

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Are ready for pick up in the church lounge on the white tables along the wall. They are alphabetical order by last name for ease of finding them. Remember, even if you give online there are some special envelopes for tithing throughout the year so stop by and pick them up! 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.

**THANK YOU!** As you may have noticed, the church looks quite beautiful and ready for the Christmas season! Thank you to all who spent this past Friday decorating! Also, it has come to our attention that we will soon need to replace our beautiful Christmas wreaths as they are starting to deteriorate, so please consider donating to the Christmas Decorating Fund to help us purchase new wreaths in time for next year. Place your donation in the offering plate with 'Christmas Fund' designated in the memo line or drop your donation off to the church office.

**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.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will have their Christmas luncheon at the Oregon Inn on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Debbie Smith's house for a Christmas get-together.

**MIRIAM CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at the Oregon Inn.

**ALTAR GUILD** will meet for their Christmas party for new and current members on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at Beth Hugueley's house at 6:30 pm.

**THE NEXT FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** will happen on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Following breakfast, we will head to Founders Hall to help set up chairs and tables for the Family Christmas Party. Questions? Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ON DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>** as we will have a very special service. 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. Also, we will have a very special guest musician, Megan Amos, who will be playing for us. Megan has been the principal horn player for the Toledo Symphony Orchestra since 2019. In-between first and second service we will host a coffee and refreshment reception for the bishop from 9:15 am-10:15 am in the lounge. Later that evening we will also have our FSJ Family Christmas Party. Please plan to attend some or all of these opportunities on December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**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. 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\*\****

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER** The December 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 it and she can resend it.

**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).

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** Plan to meet again on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am 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, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Both teams will play at home this week, so come out and support them!

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS:** We are adopting a family with four children for Christmas, and we need your help to purchase gifts for them. Christmas trees are in the narthex with paper ornaments on them. If you'd like to purchase a gift, select an ornament with the gift you'd like to provide. Keep the top ornament for yourself and then on the ornament behind it write your name and phone number. Then place the ornament with your name on it in the small box next to the trees. **The deadline for turning in your gift(s) is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. No need to wrap the gift.** You can place your gift under the tree or bring it to the church office during the week M-F 9am-4pm. Thank you for helping bring joy to a needy family this year!

**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!

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will take place after both services on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. This will include a 2024 church budget presentation and also a list of new church council candidates to vote on for the 2024 calendar year. Please plan to attend.

**LSS GIVING TUESDAY** Giving Tuesday is coming up on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio is hoping to raise \$15,000 on Giving Tuesday to directly benefit their Emergency Choice Food Pantry, Behavioral Health Services, Re-Entry Program, or Financial Stability Program. Thanks to generous matching donors, your gifts will be doubled now through Giving Tuesday on November 28. To donate, visit <https://www.lssnwo.org/> and scroll down to click the Giving Tuesday logo, mail or drop off your donation to their office at 2149 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, Ohio, 43620. Make sure to designate **Giving Tuesday** as your donation's destination.

**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** the November is 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. **UPDATE: All donations sent in from our church by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be matched thanks to an ELCA donor!** *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 is **sanitary pads (24 pack or larger) or tampons.** **UPDATE: WE ARE RUNNING VERY LOW ON THIS PRODUCT AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DONATIONS!** *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 are now in the book and ready for sign up!

**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.

**DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COOKIES NEEDED** The Day School Christmas Programs are coming up December 11, 12, 13, and 14<sup>th</sup>. We realize the church is having a cookie sale on December 10<sup>th</sup>, but we will also need donations of cookies for the family receptions after the programs. If you could drop off an extra dozen or two, the Day School would really appreciate it! Please plan to drop off by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and make sure to label them for the Day School Christmas program. These can be placed in the refrigerator in the lounge if needed. Also, if you could help serve that evening during any of the performances, we would really appreciate it. Please contact Andrea in the Day School office at 419-691-6480.