

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 10th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Courtney Miller on her 18th birthday on December 14th, given by Mom, Dad, Natalie and Vanessa; and in loving memory of William Moritz, given by Julie, Linda, and Larry Moritz.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

11-26-23: 8:00 am: 35 10:30 am: 104 Online: 52 Total: 191
JAM Sunday School: 11

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at this time

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Esther Bell, Peggy Burke, Brenda Chambers, Duke, Family of Herb Frey, Fred Kruse, Janet Mooney, Teresa Nye, Logan Roberts, Family of Gary Robeson, Tim Schmidlin, Skylar, 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 DEC 10. – DEC.16

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Worship – Congregational Meeting following service - Christmas Cookie Fundraiser Sale after service
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School
	10:30 am	- Late Worship/Communion– Congregational Meeting following service - Christmas Cookie Fundraiser Sale after service
	2:00 pm	- Chapel Communion
<u>Monday</u>	6:30 pm	- Hannah Circle @ Deb Smith's home
	7:00 pm	- FSJ Day School Christmas Program – Ms. Michelle and Mrs. Bonnie
<u>Tuesday</u>	7:00 pm	- FSJ Day School Christmas Program – Mrs. Angel
<u>Wednesday</u>	7:00 pm	- FSJ Day School Christmas Program – Ms. Dawn
<u>Thursday</u>	11:00 am	- Bible Study in the lounge
	7:00 pm	- FSJ Day School Christmas Program – Mrs. Kellie and Mrs. Jill
<u>Saturday</u>	10:00 am	- J.A.M. Children's Christmas Play Practice

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: We will have the 4th Sunday of Advent service at 10:30 am with Holy Communion, and then evening services at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm. On Monday, December 25th there will be NO worship service.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place TODAY after both services. 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.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER TODAY! After both services today, plan to come and grab some cookies for sale after each service. All proceeds will benefit the Property Management group and the upkeep of the church.

2023 POINSETTIA SALE ends **TODAY**. Copies of the order form are available in the narthex (lobby) and can be filled out in placed in the offering plate, or in the small box on the wall to the right of the flower book in the narthex (lobby). Each poinsettia is \$15 each and you can choose between red or white.

Payment must accompany orders.

THANK YOU to all who made the Family Christmas Party a success! Thanks to Sue Ann Rogers and the WELCA ladies for putting on the dinner, the entertainers for sharing their talents, and all who helped set-up tables and chairs and put them away after the dinner! All was appreciated and made for a wonderful evening!

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. 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.

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.

DONATE FOR NEW WREATHS 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.

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

ALTAR GUILD will meet next on January 8th @ 6:30 pm in the lounge.

BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS PROJECT: Honor the Savior by sharing his story! Join the Gideons International in donating Bibles to people around the world. Twenty-five dollars will provide 5 Bibles, \$50 for 10 Bibles, etc. Envelopes for donating by cash or check for this project can be found in the lounge, and you can put your donation in the offering plate. If you'd like to donate online, please go to www.BirthdayForJesus.org. The more Bibles donated, the more ornaments will appear on the Gideons' Christmas tree that will be placed in the lounge. Let's fill it up! If you have questions, you can call the Gideons' International toll free at 1-866-382-4253 or see Mark Ackerman. Thank you!

JAM NEWS: The children have been working hard on their Christmas play, which will be held on Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 am service. We will be practicing for the next several Sundays in order to prepare. On Saturday, December 16th we will hold a special practice from 10-12 pm. All children are welcome to join us in the JAM room (church basement) at 9:15 am each Sunday. Bring a Friend!

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 at office@firststjohn.com.

DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COOKIES NEEDED The Day School Christmas Programs are will happen this week on December 11, 12, 13, and 14th. They are in need of cookie donations for the family receptions after the programs. If you could drop off a dozen or two, the Day School would really appreciate it! Please plan to drop off by Sunday, December 10th and make sure to label them for the Day School Christmas program. These can be placed in the refrigerator in the lounge if needed, or you can drop off during the day all week from 9-4pm. 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.

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. We will NOT meet on December 24th or December 31st. Questions? See Bob Haar.

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) or contact the church office (419-691-7222).

DARTBALL The next Dartball matches will be held on Monday, December 18th at 7:30 pm. Both teams will play away this week. FSJ Team #2 is currently in 1st place with 11 wins and 7 losses, and FSJ Team # 2 is in 6th place with 8 wins and 10 losses.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS: We have had a great response to our Adopt-A-Family donations! There are still a few ornaments left. 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 17th. 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 17th**. 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!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on **Saturday, December 16th** at noon at Willow Cemetery in Oregon. They are in need of volunteers after the noon service to place wreaths locally on the graves of veterans. If interested, contact Ruth Price at (419) 290-3978.

PORTALS OF PRAYER The January-March copies of Portals of Prayer are now 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)

MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH the December monthly ministry outreach is the **Cherry Street Mission**. As the brutal cold weather moves in, it is especially hard for those who find themselves homeless in our city. Since 1947, the Cherry Street Mission in Toledo has provided meals, housing, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the poor and homeless. Help us support a beloved organization who gives to those in need in our community. *To support this effort, please place your check in the green envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate.*

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR DECEMBER is band aids and razor blades. (Our January focus item is dish soap.) **UPDATE: WE ARE RUNNING VERY LOW ON ALL PRODUCTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DONATIONS!** Please deposit your items in the green bin in the lounge or the pull out drawer in the narthex (lounge) under the bulletin board. The pantry also accepts monetary donations. Make checks out to St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry in the memo line and drop it in the offering plate or drop off M-F 9am-4pm in the church office.

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)*. **2024 FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS** for January through October are now in the book and ready for sign up!