

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 17th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Carol & Dick Haar's 10th wedding anniversary, given by the Haar family; and in loving memory of Gene & Rodney Price and family that have passed, given by the Price family; and in loving memory of Golda Vogelsang, mother and grandmother, given by the Schuetz & Cromly families.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-10-23: 8:00 am: 56 10:30 am: 76 Online: 40 Total: 172
JAM Sunday School: 11 Adult Bible Study: 10 Chapel Communion: 9

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 17. – DEC.23

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Worship/Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School
	10:30 am	- Late Worship/Children's Program
	11:45 am	- 2 nd Year Catechism Class (lounge)
<u>Tuesday</u>	7:00 pm	- Church Council Meeting
<u>Thursday</u>	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
<u>Friday</u>	5:30 pm	- Church and Lounge Rental – Piano Recital

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!

J.A.M. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will take place today during the 2nd service. The kids have worked very hard to share their program with you today! Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and helpers, and especially the kids for sharing their talents with us!

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.

THANK YOU! The Day School would like thank everyone who helped make our Christmas programs a success. Your support of this church's mission helps plant the seed of God's love in the young hearts of our students. We could not do it without you.

~Andrea Buckley, FSJ Day School Administrator

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.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE as Christmas is nearly upon us, the church office will be very busy preparing for our Christmas Eve services, and end of year business. Please make sure to email Jennifer any of your January newsletter items no later than December 20th if possible. You can also call in your announcements or needs to the office at 419-691-7222. Thank you in advance!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA Thank you to all who donated their time to help mark the graves, and also place the wreaths in the cemetery this past week and on Saturday. Your help is greatly appreciated and we are proud we were able to honor our veterans this Christmas.

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.

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!

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.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS: Today is the last day for Adopt-A-Family donations! **The deadline for turning in your gift(s) is today, Sunday, December 17th.** No need to wrap the gift. You can place your gift in the boxes in the narthex (lobby) or in the lounge. Thank you for helping bring joy to a needy family this year!

SECRET SANTA Today is also the deadline for dropping off gift bags for the residents of Majestic Care. *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 today, **Sunday, December 17th**. Please label if it is for a man or woman. You may drop off in the lounge on the white table and Jennifer will collect. Thank you!

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 #1 is in 5th place with 8 wins and 10 losses.

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!