

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 24th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God. See the list of poinsettias in the insert in the bulletin this morning.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-17-23: 8:00 am: 35 10:30 am: 140 Online: 30 Total: 205
JAM Sunday School: 16 Adult Bible Study: 5

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at this time

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Esther Bell, Peggy Burke, Brenda Chambers, Family of Eleanor Cochenour, Duke, Family of Herb Frey, Family of Patrick Grzybowski, Fred Kruse, Janet Mooney, Mary Beth Mullens, Teresa Nye, Logan Roberts, Family of Gary Robeson, Nichole Schlagal, 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 24. – DEC.30

<u>Today</u>	10:30 am	- 4 th Sunday of Advent Worship / Communion
	7:00 pm	- Christmas Eve Service / Children's Message
	11:00 pm	- Christmas Eve Service / Traditional
<u>Monday</u>		- OFFICE CLOSED (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE WEEK)
<u>Wednesday</u>		- Personal Needs Pantry 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Christmas Eve services will happen tonight at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm. On Monday, December 25th there will be NO worship service.

SPECIAL MUSIC THIS MORNING: We are so blessed to have special music this morning provided by Emily Lipper on trumpet, and a vocal solo by Elsie Hagedorn. We appreciate them for sharing their talents with us this morning. If you get a chance, please give them a special thank you as well!

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. They make great gifts. 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.

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.

JAM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: A very special thank you to all of our JAM teachers, volunteers, parents, and kids for sharing a special Christmas program with us last Sunday! It was wonderful to see the story of Jesus' birth told to us by the children! Thank you!

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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY we will not have Adult Sunday School on Sunday December 24th or Sunday December 31st. We will resume on Sunday January 7th. Hope to see you there!

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

END OF YEAR GIVING Through November 30th of 2023 FSJ has a deficit to budget of \$44,116. Please consider increase contributions for remainder of 2023. All contributions are tax deductible for 2023 calendar year & this contribution would be a good place for (RMD - required minimum distribution on your IRA) for those folks that qualify. All contributions need to be turned in by Sunday, Decr 31st or received in the office no later than Friday, Dec 29th to be included on your 2023 contribution statement.

~Bill Nelson - Treasurer

BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS PROJECT: Honor the Savior by sharing his story! Join the Gideons International in donating Bibles to people around the world. Just \$25 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 he 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.

THANK YOU to all those who purchased gifts from our Adopt-A-Family tree! We were able to deliver all of the requests of the family of four we adopted this past week. Your generosity helped spread some Christmas cheer and Christian love to this family! Thank you! ~ Toni Wilbarger

THANK YOU to all who donated items or a gift bag to the Secret Santa collection for Majestic Care of Oregon. We were able to deliver 5 loaded gift bags last week, and some extra items for the center to distribute as well. It will surely bring joy to the residents! ~ Jennifer Hess

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, January 15th at 7:30 pm. Both teams will play away games this week. FSJ Team #2 is currently in 1st place with 13 wins and 8 losses, and FSJ Team #1 is tied for 5th place with Trinity with 10 wins and 11 losses.

MOVIE NIGHT next movie night will be on January 14th, 2024. The movie is called "**The Hill**" based on a true story of a young man with a severe handicap. The light dinner will start at 5:30 PM with the movie starting around 6:15 PM. No charge. Just come enjoy with us!

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**. 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. *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.) **We are also low on women's hygiene products.** Please deposit your items in the green bin in the lounge or the pull out drawer in the narthex (lounge) under the bulletin board.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST The next fellowship breakfast will be Saturday, February 3, at 8:30 am at Woodville Diner on Woodville Road.