

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 3rd

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Bishop Beaudoin.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

11-26-23: 8:00 am: 35 10:30 am: 77 Online: 10 Total: 122
JAM Sunday School: 10 Adult Bible Study: 6

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, 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 3. – DEC.9

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Worship/Communion
	9:15 am	- Reception for Bishop Beaudoin
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School
	10:30 am	- Late Worship
	11:45 am	- 2 nd Year Catechism
	5:30 pm	- FSJ Family Christmas Party
<u>Monday</u>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	- Altar Guild Christmas Party @ Hugueley's
<u>Tuesday</u>	11:30 am	- Ruth Circle @ Oregon Inn
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:30 am	- Miriam Circle @ Oregon Inn
<u>Thursday</u>	11:00 am	- Bible Study in the lounge
	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
<u>Saturday</u>	9:00 am	- Cookie Sale Drop-Off in the lounge

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!

WELCOME to **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin** from the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA who will be sharing our sermon today! Please make sure to join us in the lounge at 9:15 am for a special reception and to greet the Bishop.

WELCOME to our special musical guest, **Megan Amos**. She is the principal horn player for the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. We are so happy she is here to share her beautiful musical talents!

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT! Don't forget to join us tonight, December 3rd in the gym for our annual Family Christmas Party. Can't wait to fellowship together!

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE: 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 25th there will be NO worship service.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place after both services on Sunday, December 10th. 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.

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 10th. **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. 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.

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

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 6th at 11:30 am at the Oregon Inn.

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 for their Christmas party for new and current members on Monday, December 4th at Beth Hugueley's house at 6:30 pm.

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: Last Sunday we began practicing for our 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. 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.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER Please consider helping WELCA with their Christmas Cookie Sale that will be held on December 10th after both services. To participate and help raise funds plan to bring your baked cookies on **Saturday, Dec 9th** 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 14th. We realize the church is having a cookie sale on December 10th, 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 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. 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.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Plan to meet again on Thursday, November 30th 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.

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 4th 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 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!

LSS GIVING TUESDAY Giving Tuesday is coming up on Tuesday, November 28th. 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.

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 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)

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 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)*. 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!