

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 31st

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Kim Cousino who passed away 4 years ago on 1/1/2020, given by the Cousino family; and in loving memory of Carolyn Schwierking who passed last week, given by her daughters and family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-24-23: 10:30 am: 128 7:00 pm: 146 11:00 pm: 121 Online: 23 Total: 418

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at this time

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: 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, Family of Abraham Rivera Jr., Logan Roberts, Family of Gary Robeson, Nichole Schlagal, Tim Schmidlin, Family of Carolyn Schwierking, 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 31. – JAN 6

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Service / Communion
	10:30 am	- Late Service / Communion
<u>Monday</u>		- OFFICE CLOSED (SCHOOL CLOSED through Jan 5 th)
<u>Tuesday</u>	11:30 am	- Ruth Circle @ Oregon Inn
<u>Wednesday</u>		- Personal Needs Pantry Closed
	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle in the lounge
<u>Saturday</u>	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle 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!

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Eleanor Cochenour as they grieve her loss. We pray for her loved ones during this difficult time. At the time of this printing, the family is planning a private remembrance at a later date.

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Carolyn Schwierking who passed away on December 22, 2023. Our prayers are with her loved ones during this difficult time. She was buried on Friday, December 29th at the Allen Township Cemetery in Williston, OH.

POINSETTIA PICKUP If you purchased a poinsettia this year and have not yet picked it up, they are available in the lounge. Please make sure you take yours after service today.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Are still available 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!

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL will not meet today, and will resume next week on Sunday, January 7th at 9:15 am in the basement classroom of the church.

2nd YEAR CATECHISM will resume on Sunday, January 14th at 11:45 am following 2nd service.

THURSDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet next on Thursday, January 11th at 11:00 am in the lounge. All are welcome to attend! It is typically held every Thursday at 11:00 am weekly. Hope to see you there!

END OF YEAR GIVING Through November 30th of 2023 FSJ has a deficit to budget of \$44,116. Please consider increased contributions for the 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 TODAY, **Sunday, Dec 31st** or received in the office no later than Friday, Dec 29th to be included on your 2023 contribution statement.
~Bill Nelson - Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The results of the vote at the congregational meeting were that all candidates for church council were elected unanimously. The 2024 budget was passed with 96 approved, three against, and two abstained.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: All newly elected and incumbent members of Church Council, Day School Board, WELCA, and Altar Guild will be installed during both church services on Sunday, January 7th as they begin their 2024 duties.

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

QUILTING NEWS: We will begin quilting again on Monday, January 8th at 9:30 am in the lounge. We usually are there until about 1:00 pm. We quilt each Monday morning through the end of March, which will be March 25th. We follow Oregon Schools for any cancellations due to weather. Everyone is welcome, no experience necessary! If you have any questions, please call Jane Neal at 419-276-5057.

BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS PROJECT: Honor the Savior by sharing his story! Join 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. The last day to donate is TODAY, **December 31st**. If you'd like to donate online, please go to www.BirthdayForJesus.org. If you have questions, you can call the Gideons' International toll free at 1-866-382-4253 or see Mark Ackerman. Thank you!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet this Tuesday, January 2nd at 11:30 am at the Oregon Inn.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, January 3rd at 9:30 am in the lounge.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Saturday, January 6th at 11:30 am in the lounge.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in January but will meet again on February 7th at 6:30 pm.

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

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

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.

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!

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY: During worship on Sunday, **January 21st** you can come forward as a family (and yes, one person is a family in God's eyes) and receive a blessing. You can come with different people in your family (you and your spouse, you and your extended family, etc.) or even those you consider family- as many times as you want. What a great way to start 2024!

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 JANUARY 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.

LOST AND FOUND any items found during the week or over the holidays are placed on the white tables in the lounge or with Jennifer in the church office. If you are missing any items, please feel free to contact the church office at 419-691-7222 to check and see if we may have them!

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).