

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 11<sup>th</sup>

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Maude Takacs birthday on February 13<sup>th</sup>, given by Joan Probasco; In loving memory of Lily Dukeshire-Georgeson in honor of her heavenly birthday, given by her loving family; and in loving memory of our aunt Mil's birthday, given by the Schuetz & Cromly families.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

2-4-24: 8:00 am: 33      10:30 am: 81      Online: 30      Total: 144  
JAM Sunday School: 10      Adult Sunday School: 10

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*None at this time.*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Bill Bartley, Peggy Burke, Ann Dudics, Duke, Sue Knudsen, Janet Mooney, Laura Grace, Baby Nathan, Teresa Nye, Tessa, Logan Roberts, Tim Schmidlin, Sandra, Skylar, Jerry Smith, Linda Smith, Greg Wagner, Steve Welling, Arlene Wilbarger.

*\*\*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](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)\*\**

### **CALENDAR FOR FEB 11 – FEB 17**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	8:00 am	- Early Service
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School (basement classrooms)
	10:30 am	- Late Service / Communion
	11:45 am	- 2nd Year Catechism
	2:00 pm	- Chapel Communion
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	9:30 am	- Quilters (lounge)
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	11:00 am	- ASH WEDNESDAY (Early Service)
	7:00 pm	- ASH WEDNESDAY (Evening service)
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study
	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal

**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!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** join us each Sunday at 9:15am for Sunday School in the lounge. We will study the gospel using the three Cs- Context, Character, and Conclusions. Please join us for coffee, tea, donuts, and Bible study. Questions? See Bob Haar.

**J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets every Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM area (basement of the church). Please join us each week!

**QUILTING NEWS:** meets each Monday at 9:30 am in the lounge, until about 1pm. We quilt each Monday morning through the end of March, which will be March 25<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome, no experience needed. Bring a sack lunch. 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.

**EASTER FLOWER SALE:** Lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips are again available to choose from. Plants are \$15 this year, and the deadline for turning in orders is Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are in the Sunday bulletins and the February newsletter.

**SOCKS FOR SALEM:** The Quilting group is collecting socks for Salem Lutheran Church's neighborhood ministries. They accept new or gently used socks for men, women, and children. Last time, we collected 250 pairs of socks! Collection boxes are in the lounge and the Narthex (lobby). Donations will be accepted through the end of February. Thank you!

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** We are collecting money and canned goods to help fund the Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio's local food pantry. Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchase food for the pantry. (Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry will be our monthly ministry outreach for February as well.) Grocery carts are available for your food donations, and a soup pot is in the Narthex to collect monetary donations—whatever you can give—to help Lutheran Social Services provide food for people in need. In January you donated a total of 105 food products! Let's keep it going!

**LENT/HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday (and each Wednesday following during Lent) – Services at 11am / 7 pm
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am
Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday 11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday 12:00 pm
Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am

**WE NEED PRAYER BUDDIES!** Please consider volunteering to be prayer buddies for our FSJ Day School students and staff members! Please select an Easter Egg from the bin located in the Narthex (lobby). Inside you will find a picture of the student or staff member you are asked to pray for daily. We ask that during this Lenten season you take some time to pray for this child or teacher and their path towards Christ. Please fill this egg with a written prayer or words of encouragement and a small toy or candy to help celebrate the joy of Easter and remind the child that Jesus died to save us all. Feel free to decorate the egg as long as we can read the child's name at the bottom. They will need to be returned by March 24th. There will be a box at the back of the church in the Narthex. Please contact Andrea Buckley if any questions by calling (419-691-6480) or emailing the school office at [fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com](mailto:fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com)

**WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:** This scholarship is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and will attend college for the 2024/2025 school year. Applications are in the church office M-F 9:30am-4pm. Turn in your completed application to the church office by March 29<sup>th</sup> to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

**MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH** for February is Lutheran Social Services. Special pink envelopes are available in your pew if you would like to donate. Make checks out to First St. John and write "LSS Food Pantry" on the memo line, and place in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Thank you.

**DARTBALL** On Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, First St. John # 2 will play at home against St. Lucas, and First St. John #1 will play away at St. Mark's.

**2023 FINANCIAL RECAP** In 2023, FSJ members generously contributed over \$400,000 in which a portion was directed toward designated funds (ex. debt retirement) as well as the operating fund. With that being stated, the operating account (day-to-day expenses) had a year-end deficit of \$25,632 which was covered by the FSJ reserve account. There were several maintenances expenses with electrical/boiler repairs & stripping/waxing floors in the educational building (custodial services) that were not expected. At this time, please review your stewardship to FSJ so that we can continue with our worship experience for years to come. I am grateful for everyone's dedication, time, financial support, & talents given to the church & Lord which is evident on our church campus with numerous organizations that serve the community & each other. What a blessing!

~ Bill Nelson (Treasurer)

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR JANUARY** are paper towels, however we are accepting any of the items on our list you are willing to give. We also launched an Amazon online wish list this past week allowing anyone interested in donating to purchase on Amazon and ship directly to the church pantry. In the month of January, we collected **307 products** and so far in February we have collected **409 products!** What an amazing response considering we distribute around 250-300 products a week! Your donations are making a huge difference...keep it up! The link has been shared via email and posted on the First St. John Facebook page and included in the February Newsletter. You can also deposit any items donated in the green bin in the lounge or the pull-out drawer in the narthex (lounge).

**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 (lobby)*. **2024 FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS** for January through October are now in the book and ready for sign up! November through December will be added soon!

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER:** Is available for pick up in the Narthex (lobby) and the lounge if that is how you receive them. Newsletters were emailed and “snail” mailed this past week. Please let Jennifer know if you have not yet received it, or of any issues you may be experiencing.

**HOW KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM HELPS FIRST ST. JOHN:** By creating an account with Kroger and linking your card to our church’s code, your purchases automatically begin accumulating rewards every time you use your card (excluding some purchases). Visit the website at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up. First create an account, then under your profile select an organization to be your designated community reward recipient. You’ll need your e-mail address and your Kroger Plus Card number (located on the back of the card). Once your account is set up, select First St. John Lutheran Church by using our designated number: #83476 Thank you for your support!

**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.

**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](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com)) or contact the church office (419-691-7222).

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** The January-March 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](mailto:office@firststjohn.com))

PLEASE JOIN US WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am or 7pm for Ash Wednesday Service.



Lent is coming with Ash Wednesday on February 14, this year. Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week, on Wednesday at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm, the services will reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

**ASH WEDNESDAY: GUIDED TO FORGIVENESS**

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we are drawn to Calvary to receive forgiveness. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of forgiving one another as we have been forgiven by Christ through the cross.