

ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 10th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Paige Hess' 15th birthday on March 12th, given by her family; and in honor of Jessie Henneman's birthday on March 13th.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

3-3-24: 8:00 am: 45 10:30 am: 79 Online: 14 Total: 138
JAM Sunday School: 10 Adult Sunday School: 9 Fellowship Breakfast: 10

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at this time.

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Bill Bartley, Peggy Burke, Ann Dudics, Duke, Martha Everett, Jim Harrell, Sue Knudsen, Janet Mooney, Laura Grace, Helen, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Baby Nathan, Teresa Nye, Logan Roberts, Tim Schmidlin, Sandra, Skylar, Jerry Smith, Greg Wagner, Steve Welling, Arlene Wilbarger, Dave Wilbarger Sr.

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 MAR 10 – MAR 16

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Service / Baptism
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School (basement classrooms)
	10:30 am	- Late Service / Communion
	11:45 am	- 2 nd Year Catechism
<u>Monday</u>	2:00 pm	- Chapel Communion
	9:30 am	- Quilters (lounge)
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<u>Wednesday</u>	6:30 pm	- Altar Guild Meeting
	11:00 am	- Lenten Services (Early Service)
	7:00 pm	- Lenten Services (Evening service)
<u>Thursday</u>	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study
	6:00 pm	- Day School Open House
	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
<u>Saturday</u>	9:00 am	- Cemetery Clean-Up

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).

BAPTISM TODAY will take place during the 8:00 am service for Alyssa Cousino.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

CHAPEL COMMUNION will take place today at 2:00 pm in the chapel on the 2nd floor of the education building.

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!

EASTER FLOWER SALE: Lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips are again available to chosen from this Easter. Plants are \$15 this year, and the deadline for turning in orders is Sunday, March 17th. Order forms are in the Sunday bulletins and the February newsletter, and in the narthex (lobby). We are especially in need of Lily orders for Easter Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE for the annual Card Party and Luncheon which will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at noon in our gym (elevator available). The cost will be \$15 this year and includes lunch, desserts, door prizes and raffles! Mark your calendars now and watch for more information soon!

2024 WELCA ROSTER BOOKS are now available in the lounge on the long white table. This contains a list of the women's ministries that are active in our church. It is not too late to join a group either! All women who attend First St John are welcome! Join a group today!

DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE The FSJ Day School will host an open house this week for the upcoming 2024/2025 school year on Thursday, March 14th from 6:00pm-7:30pm. If you or anyone you know is interested in a faith-based education, come out and meet our teachers and see the classrooms. Fall registration for the 24/25 school year is underway now online and is filling up quickly. If you can't attend the open house, please call the school at 419-691-6480 with questions and/or to schedule a tour.

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTERS are available in the lounge and in the narthex (lobby) of the church. If you signed up to receive an electronic copy or a copy mailed, they were sent this weekend.

330+ SOCKS COLLECTED! The Quilting group collected socks for Salem Lutheran Church's neighborhood ministries during the month of January and February. Last year, we collected 250 pairs of socks and this year we exceeded our goal and collected 330 socks at last count, with a few bags more coming in after the official tally was counted. The people of our FSJ continue to show God's love through their generosity. Carlene Trost, and the rest of the quilters thank everyone for helping Salem Lutheran and the needy in our community.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE! We wrapped up our donation period for our Souper Bowl of Caring event at the end of February. After the final counts were made and more donations were received after the Dart Ball Tournament, we collected even more than we thought! We were able to donate 379 pantry items, and \$639.69 in monetary donations. Way to be Souper Givers!

LENT/HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Mar 13th, Mar 20th – Lent Services at 11am / 7 pm
Mar 24th Palm Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am
Mar 28th Maundy Thursday 11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 29th Good Friday 12:00 pm
Mar 31st Easter Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am

PRAYER BUDDIES REMINDER Thanks to your generosity we were able to distribute all of our eggs for the students and staff! As a reminder, please return your egg with any goodies and a written prayer or word of encouragement no later than Sunday, March 24th. There is a collection box located in the back of the church on the table. **PLEASE NOTE:** As we are including all the kids/teachers this year, there will NOT be a big reveal day as we have had in the past but all eggs will be distributed before the children and teachers go on Spring Break. Please contact Andrea Buckley if any questions by calling (419-691-6480) or emailing the school office at fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com

MONTHLY MINISTRY for the month of March is the Luther Home of Mercy, an organization that works with those who have developmental disabilities. If you want to help, place your check or cash in the yellow envelopes from the pew caddies and place them in the offering plate.

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 25th. 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.

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 29th to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

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 December are now in the book and ready for sign up!**

DARTBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS Our very own First St. John #2 battled their way back from the losers bracket to win 1st place in the Toledo Lutheran Dartball Tournament that took place this past Monday evening. First St. John #1 also finished in 3rd place. Way to go! The teams will continue regular season play on March 18th with both teams playing away matches. First St. John #1 will play at St. Lucas, and First St. John #2 will play at St. Mark.

FSJ MUD HENS NIGHT It's time to play ball! The Toledo Mud Hens minor league baseball team is inviting area churches to their "Faith and Family" night at Fifth Third Field on Sunday, June 30th. We are gauging interest in how many members of our church family and friends would be interested in attending. Please call the church office and indicate how many tickets you would need or see Bob Haar. More details are coming in future bulletins and newsletters. It would be great if we could get a big group to attend from First St. John and support the Mud Hens!

OFFICE HELP NEEDED! Our church secretary, Jennifer, will be on vacation from April 1-6th and will need some morning coverage of the office and phones. The office will be closed on Monday, April 1st (day after Easter), and she already has coverage on Tuesday and Wednesday, so she will just need some morning help on Thursday and Friday if possible. The Day School will be off on Spring Break so should be very easy! Contact Jennifer @419-691-7222 if you can help.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR MARCH is toilet paper. This is one of our highest need items. We distribute 4 rolls to every person in each household weekly that visits our pantry. Please consider buying a large pack of toilet paper and depositing it in the green bin in the lounge, or the pull-out drawer under the bulletin board in the narthex (lobby). You can even drop off during the week to the church office. The Dollar Tree store sells a perfect size 4-pack for \$1.25 each also if you can stop there and grab a pack or two! Anything will help! In the month of February, we collected **701 products!** This is an amazing response considering we distribute around 250-300 products a week! Your donations are making a huge difference...keep it up!

CARE CLOSET DONATIONS NEEDED! Accidents happen, and at our FSJ Day School we want to make sure all our kids have something extra to wear just in case! How can you help? Consider donating new or unused underwear for boys or girls, new or gently used pants/leggings/sweatpants, socks, or croc style shoes (any kids size) for boys or girls and help keep our care closet stocked for the school year. Items can be dropped off in the bin in the lounge under the white table, or in the church office. See Jennifer in the church office for more details!

RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH BY SHOPPING: 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 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. From November through January, we had 20 households signed up and the church earned **\$93.33**. Thank you for your support!

DISCOUNT CARD FUNDRAISER: The FSJ Day School is still 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. A list of the area businesses that are on the card is located on the wall in front of the church office. Buy one today from either the Church or Day School office. They make great gifts. Please consider supporting this Day School fundraising effort!

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).

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)

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS On Good Friday, March 29th, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Ida, Michigan (1920 Lewis Ave), will be hosting a dramatic reenactment of Christ's last days with guided tours every 15 minutes starting from 11am-2pm, and at 4pm-7pm. Come partake in this 20-year tradition.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP We will have our semi-annual cemetery clean up on **Saturday, March 16th** at 9:00am. Volunteers are needed—the more hands we have, the quicker we finish! Please remove anything from a grave that you would like to keep—older decorations, grave blankets, and especially anything from Christmas—before March 16th. If interested in helping, reach out to Jennifer in the church office, or Bill Caldwell.

PLEASE JOIN US each Wednesday through March 20th at 11am or 7pm for Lenten Services.



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.