

ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 17th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of our dad and grandpa, Erwin Vogelsang, on his birthday; and in loving memory of our dad and grandpa, Eardley Schuetz, on his birthday, given by the Schuetz and Cromly families.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

3-10-24: 8:00 am: 32 10:30 am: 71 Online: 22 Total: 125

JAM Sunday School: 11 Adult Sunday School: 5 Chapel Communion: 3

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

Connie Singlar, St. Charles Hospital

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Bill Bartley, Peggy Burke, Ann Dudics, Duke, Martha Everett, Jim Harrell, Sue Knudsen, Fred Kruse, Janet Mooney, Laura Grace, Helen, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Baby Nathan, Teresa Nye, Logan Roberts, Tim Schmidlin, Sandra, Skylar, Connie Singlar, 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 17 – MAR 23

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Service / Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School (basement classrooms)
	10:30 am	- Late Service
<u>Monday</u>	6:15 pm	- Finance Committee Meeting
	9:30 am	- Quilters (lounge)
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	- WELCA meeting
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 am	- Lenten Services (Early Service)
	7:00 pm	- Lenten Services (Evening service)
<u>Thursday</u>	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!

LAST DAY FOR EASTER FLOWERS: 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 today, **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.

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!

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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CARD PARTY! The annual Card Party and Luncheon 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. We will also need donations for door prizes, either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. Official collection of items and donations in the community will start in April, but contact Jane Schuetz, or Emily Kruse if interested in donating. More information and details coming soon!

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.

LENT/HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

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

RETURN YOUR PRAYER BUDDY EGGS! Thanks to your generosity we were able to get prayer buddies for all 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 fsidayschool@firststjohn.com

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL EGG HUNT on **Sunday, March 24th**, we will be having an Easter Egg hunt in the JAM room during Sunday School. Please have children bring an Easter basket or container to hold their collected eggs. We are asking the congregation for donations of small candy that can fit inside the Easter Eggs. Please leave these on the white table in the lounge labeled for JAM or drop them off at the church office M-F 9am-4pm.

CHURCH LIBRARY REFRESH! Did you know we have a 'free-to-you' resource of Christian reading material in our church lounge? This includes fiction, non-fiction, devotionals, and even movies. We currently are in the process of refreshing our library located in the church lounge. We have a wealth of books available for you to borrow and we have recently added some new titles! Our library uses a card checkout system, and the instructions for borrowing are located on the shelf, along with the new titles available for ease of viewing. Once you sign a book out, we just ask that you return it within one month (or preferably two weeks) so others may enjoy it as well. Over the next few months, we will continue to add new titles and organize the library. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Emily Kruse (419-654-2842).

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.

DEADLINE APPROACHING WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP: 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.

FSJ DAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HAS BEGUN! We are now fully rolling with registration for the 2024-2025 school year. We had an amazing turnout for our Open House last Thursday evening, and classes are starting to fill up and we are looking forward to many new faces. We are also getting ready for our new summer program. This year we are offering a day camp with an extended care option. Whether you need summer childcare, or have kids looking for something to do, our summer program may fit the bill. We are accepting kids aged 3-10. If interested in enrolling for next school year, or for the summer please visit the Day School website (firststjohndayschool.org) or contact Andrea Buckley, 419-691-6480.

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 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. Please call the church office and indicate how many tickets you will 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!

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!

LMM ANNUAL MEETING Delegates from First St. John Lutheran Church attended the 11th Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM) annual meeting on March 11th. LMM affiliates consist of Filling Memorial Home (65th annual meeting), Luther Home of Mercy (96th annual meeting), & Lutheran Social Services. Rev. Sarah Schaaf (assistant to Bishop Beaudoin - ELCA of NWOS) made opening remarks & prayer. Dinner was served and a business meeting was conducted which included approval for LMM & LSS Foundation nomination boards. Guest speaker **Alesia Frerichs** took the podium & spoke about the dedication of staff, administration, and most of all the 266 Association of Congregations of NWO that support LMM in so many ways. Alesia is the President & CEO of Lutheran Services in America & travelled from Washington, DC to be at the LMM Annual Meeting.

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!

SAVE THE DATE FOR MOVIE NIGHT! The next movie night will be held on **Sunday, May 5th**. We will offer a "Cinco de Mayo" themed menu, with ground beef tacos, chips and salsa, melted cheese/queso, along with our other usual snacks. The movie will be "The Case for Christ", based on a true story out of the Chicago area about an investigative reporter who does not believe in Christianity and is trying to disprove the Bible and teachings; the twist is that his wife just became a born-again Christian, so not only is his reputation on the line, but also his marriage. What he concludes may surprise you! Please mark your calendars and consider joining us! A free will donation will be taken for this movie to cover expenses. This will be a good time with our church family & friends, please invite everyone you can. It is also good for our catechism kids and young adults!

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.

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.