

ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 24th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Connie Guth, James and Nan Ragland, and Kelvin Dunaway, given my Steve Dunaway and family.

MESSENGERS are given by Robert Giaimo in loving memory of Paulette S. Giaimo.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

3-17-24: 8:00 am: 41 10:30 am: 97 Online: 18 Total: 156

JAM Sunday School: 5 Adult Sunday School: 10

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

Connie Singlar, St. Charles Hospital

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Kevin Abbey, Bill Bartley, Peggy Burke, Ann Dudics, Duke, Martha Everett, Carol Haar, Family of Pearl Hager, Jim Harrell, Sue Knudsen, Rebecca Kohn, Fred Kruse, Laura Grace, Marc LeDuc, Helen, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Janet Mooney, 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 24 – MAR 30

<u>Today</u>	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	- 2 nd Year Catechism
<u>Monday</u>	9:30 am	- Quilters (lounge)
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<u>Thursday</u>	11:00 am	- Maundy Thursday (Early Service)
	5:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	- Maundy Thursday (Evening Service)
<u>Friday</u>	12:00 pm	- Good Friday Service

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!

LENT/HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

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

EXCUSE OUR MESS! This past week we undertook a project to repair the water line to the cemetery. Please note that some of the parking in the rear of the church will be unavailable, and at certain times during the week, the exit may be blocked. We hope to complete the construction sometime next week. Thank you for your patience!

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.

ANNUAL 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 a wonderful lunch with homemade desserts. Door prizes and raffle prizes are available. Even if you don't play cards, you can come and play board games or just hang out with your friends from First St. John. For reservations, call either the church office (419-691-7222) or Jane Schuetz (419-691-5506). Also, we also need door prizes, either something you make or that you can get a business to donate. Boxes are in the lounge and the Narthex for depositing these donations. EVERYONE is welcome to join us for a fun day.

RETURN PRAYER BUDDY EGGS TODAY! 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 today, Sunday, March 24th. There is a collection box located in the back of the church on the table. **If you happen to forget, no worries, call the church office on Monday, March 25th to make arrangements.** Please contact Andrea Buckley if any questions by calling (419-691-6480) or emailing the school office at fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL EGG HUNT is today, **Sunday, March 24th**, we will be having an Easter Egg hunt in the JAM room during Sunday School at 9:15 am. 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.

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!

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 our 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.

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE This year WELCA will be holding a gift basket raffle fundraiser with a Father's Day theme. It would be awesome if multi-generational families in our congregation could help us put together themed baskets as donations. We would like to get at least 25 baskets to raffle. If you are willing

to donate a basket, or items to help fill the baskets please bring them to the church by June 8th. They will be on display for bidding on June 9th and we will announce the basket winners and collect the money on June 16th. The money raised will be donated to our Personal Needs Pantry. A few basket ideas could be a Packo's basket, Golf basket, Snack basket, Fishing basket, Hunting basket, Car Care basket, BBQ basket, Sports Themed basket, etc. We can't wait to see what everyone can come up with!

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST the next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 8:30 am at Woodville Diner. Please join us for food and fellowship! We always have room for more!

FSJ FEBRUARY FINANCE REPORT For the month of February FSJ was \$9,326.00 to the negative. Total operating income was \$26,076 with total expenses of \$35,402. One of the largest expenses was \$3,885 invoice for January snow/ice removal & a \$958 repair on a heating circulating pump. Please remember that your "white envelope" contributions go directly to monthly operating expenses. Other contributions (example: benevolence, debt retirement, & etc.) go directly into the FSJ Designated Fund to honor your choice of giving. Thank you, **Bill Nelson - Treasurer**

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.

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!

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.

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!

DISCOUNT CARD FUNDRAISER: THESE MAKE GREAT EASTER GIFTS! 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!

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER The April-June 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)

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).

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!

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!

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 FOR EASTER SERVICES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 31st at 8am and 10:30am.

