

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of our daughter, Andrea Schumaker, in honor of her birthday on March 1<sup>st</sup>, given by Jim & Dianne Schumaker; and in loving memory of Jim Gallaher on his March 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, given by Keith & Kim Kwiatkowski.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

2-25-24: 8:00 am: 27      10:30 am: 88      Online: 33      Total: 148  
JAM Sunday School: 7      Adult Sunday School: 10

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*None at this time.*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Bill Bartley, Peggy Burke, Ann Dudics, Duke, Martha Everett, 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

*\*\*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 MAR 3 – MAR 9**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	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
	1:30 pm	- Dart Ball Tournament Set-up
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	9:30 am	- Quilters (lounge)
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	- Dart Ball Tournament
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Ruth Circle
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle
	11:00 am	- Lenten Services (Early Service)
	7:00 pm	- Lenten Services (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!

**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, and in the narthex (lobby).

**SAVE THE DATE** for the annual Card Party and Luncheon which will be held on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 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!

**CONCERT TODAY** Our very own Dr. Tony will be presented in concert by St. Timothy Episcopal Church at 871 East Boundary Street in Perrysburg, Ohio. The concert is this afternoon, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. The free concert is the St. Tim's Discover Music Series. The concert is in memory of Dr. Hollis W. Merrick. Clarinetist Lesli McCage-Simmons will also appear on the program. Hope to see you there if you can make it!

**DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** The FSJ Day School will host an open house for the upcoming 2024/2025 school year on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**YOU ARE SOUPER GIVERS!** We wrapped up our donation period for our Souper Bowl of Caring event during January and February. Thanks to the congregation's generosity we are able to donate 296+ pantry items and over \$500+ in monetary donations to the pantry! The folks at Lutheran Social Services are beyond grateful for your generosity as they rely on churches like ours to keep their ministry going. Well done! If you can help load or unload at LSS and have availability on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday next week, please contact Bill Nelson, 419-836-4165.

**LENT/HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

*Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, Mar 20<sup>th</sup> – 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 MORE 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 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be a box at the back of the church in the Narthex for collection this week.

**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. 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)

**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 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.

**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.

**DARTBALL** we will again host the Toledo Lutheran Dartball Tournament which will be held on March 4, 2024, in the gym. The event starts at 7pm and continues to 11pm and typically around 100 people participate. The FSJ dartball teams will need to set up the gym area for the tournament on TODAY, Sunday (3rd) @ 1:30 PM (about 2 hours). Please reach out to Bill Nelson if interested in helping with set-up.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the lounge.

**MIRIAM CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the lounge.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will not meet in March.

**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!**

**OFFICE HELP NEEDED!** Our church secretary, Jennifer, will be on vacation from April 1-6<sup>th</sup> and will need some morning coverage of the office and phones. The office will be closed on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (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 are able to 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](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. 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](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))

**THANK YOU!** Lutheran Social Services would like to thank the congregation of First St. John for donating \$570.69 to the Toledo Food Pantry in February. Thank you for blessing our community and continue to shine your light and be the heart of Jesus to those around you!

*~ Tracia Jaksetic, VP of Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio*

**THANK YOU** for your generous gift of \$588 to support Genacross Lutheran Services Family & Youth programs. Your gift is deeply appreciated and allows the Genacross Foundation the ability to support unparalleled Christian care to so many in need.

*~ Michael A. George, Executive Director of Genacross*

**JOURNEY TO THE CROSS** On Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 16<sup>th</sup>. If interested in helping, reach out to Jennifer in the church office, or Bill Caldwell.

**PLEASE JOIN US each Wednesday through March 20<sup>th</sup> 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.