

ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 25th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of David Winslow, given by Mike & Donna Winslow; to the glory of God in tribute to Ed Schweizer, on his February 17th birthday, given by his loving wife, Verlene, and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and in honor of Darlene Lorenzen, given by Rebecca Circle.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

2-18-24: 8:00 am: 29 10:30 am: 70 Online: 26 Total: 125

JAM Sunday School: 7 Adult Sunday School: 6

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at this time.

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Bill Bartley, Peggy Burke, Ann Dudics, Duke, Sue Knudsen, Janet Mooney, Laura Grace, Helen, Darlene Lorenzen, 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

CALENDAR FOR FEB 25 – MAR 2

Today	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
Monday	9:30 am	- Quilters (lounge)
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
Wednesday	11:00 am	- Lenten Services (Early Service)
	7:00 pm	- Lenten Services (Evening service)
Thursday	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study
	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	8:30 am	- Fellowship Breakfast at Woodville Diner
	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle

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 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.

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 17th. Order forms are in the Sunday bulletins and the February newsletter, and in the narthex (lobby).

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST the next fellowship breakfast will be held **Saturday, March 2, at 8:30 am.** We will meet at the Woodville Diner for fellowship. All are invited. We always have room for more!

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 and as we enter our last week of collection, we are at **302 pairs collected!** 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: This is the final week for food collection to benefit the LSS Food Pantry! Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchase food for the pantry. 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. So far you have donated a total of **256 food products!** We will be delivering sometime next week between 9am-noon. 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:

Feb 28th, Mar 6th, 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

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 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

THANK YOU FROM THE BISHOP Our church family recently donated \$25,000 to the Northwestern Ohio Synod as a tithe from the generous \$250,000 gift from the estate of Richard Snyder. A thank you letter from Bishop Daniel Beaudoin is on display in the Narthex.

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.

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 Sunday (3rd) @ 1:30 PM (about 2 hours). Please reach out to Bill Nelson if interested in helping with set-up.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet next on Saturday, March 2nd at 11:30 am in the lounge.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, March 5th at 11:00 am in the lounge.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, March 6th 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!**

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY 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, we have collected **548 products** in February! 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).

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 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 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) 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)

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.