

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 14<sup>th</sup>

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God.

**MESSENGERS** are given in loving memory of Joan Bailey, and in honor of her grandson, Ryan Abbey and her granddaughter, Shannon who have April birthdays,

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

4-7-24: 8:00 am: 38    10:30 am: 92    Online: 20    Total: 150  
J.A.M Sunday School: 9    Adult Sunday School: 9

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*None at this time.*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** 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, Misael Martinez, 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., Eileen Young

***\*\*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 APR 14 – APR 20**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	8:00 am	- Early Service
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School (basement classrooms)
	10:30 am	- Late Service / Communion
	2:00 pm	- Chapel Communion
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	- Dart Ball (Home)
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	5:30 pm	- Hannah Circle @ Rockwell's
	7:00 pm	- Church Council Meeting
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study
	6:30 pm	- Choir Practice

**WELCOME TO FIRST ST. JOHN:** If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest book, located in the Narthex (lobby).

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

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** please join us each Sunday at 9:15 am 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** JAM Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM area (basement of the church). Please join us next week! Check out our coming family bowling event further down in the announcements.

**MONTHLY MINISTRY** for the month of April will again be 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.

**FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT:** Families of JAM (Jesus And Me Sunday School) children and their families are invited to join in for a fun evening of bowling at Interstate Lanes in Rossford on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00–6:00 pm. Food, drinks, bowling and shoes will be taken care of for all JAM families! Please RSVP to Stacy Donley ([stacydonley16@gmail.com](mailto:stacydonley16@gmail.com)) or 419-349-8659.

**THANK YOU** A huge thank you to all who helped cover the office this past week for me while I was on vacation! It means a lot that we have so many who are supportive of the work it takes each week as we serve the Lord! ~Jennifer Hess, Church Secretary

**THANK YOU** We want to thank everyone for their prayers with his new diagnosis of atrial fibrillation. He is doing well on new meds, and we were able to travel to Florida & South Carolina to vacation with family. The concern & well wishes from the FSJ family and Pastor Rayl's hospital visit were comforting and appreciated! ~ Kevin and Carol Abbey

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED:** After an amazing donation response at the beginning of the year, we are just starting again to have some urgent needs for items in our pantry. This month's donation focus is facial tissues, but we are also greatly in need of bars of soap (2 packs work best), women's deodorant (2 oz. size or greater), shampoo, and laundry detergent. If you are able to donate any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated. We also have an online Amazon Wishlist with items you can purchase and have directly sent to us! Email Jennifer in the office and she can send you the link if you would prefer to purchase items that way! Make sure to support the upcoming Card Party as the proceeds will benefit the pantry directly as well! Thanks in advance!

**APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER** has been emailed to everyone as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you did not receive it, please check your spam folder. Some are reporting issues as their contact for the FSJ office email is still listed as 'Toni', please update to 'Jennifer', and mark the message as safe. Those requesting a copy by mail were mailed the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>, and hardcopies available in the lounge and narthex (lobby).

**ANNUAL CARD PARTY!** The annual Card Party and Luncheon 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 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).

**DONATIONS FOR CARD PARTY:** We need donations for our card party raffle. Raffle prizes should have values of at least \$25 (gift certificates, gift baskets, flower arrangements, etc.) Door prizes can be something you make or that you can ask a business to donate. These are worth about \$5 to \$10, like gift certificates, dish towels, small items from stores like Bath & Body Works, etc. Boxes are in the lounge and Narthex (lobby) for your donations of both types of prizes. Thank you!

**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!

**FSJ TREASURER UPDATE:** Church Family, just a friendly reminder about your IRA / 401K. The year you turn 73 years old, by federal law you must receive a portion of your IRA savings called Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The amount / percentage depends on everyone's individual circumstance. There is a way that you can have a win-win situation (if you choose) between FSJ & yourself. Any portion of the money can be withdrawn using a "qualified charitable distribution" (QCD); by notifying your financial advisor that you would like to make a direct QCD to First St. John Lutheran Church. The monies are sent directly to the church through your financial institution, so that there would be no tax liability for you on this contribution to the church. Please see your financial advisor for more detail.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, April 16th @ 5:30 pm at Rockwell's downtown. If interested in joining, please contact Debbie Smith at 419-344-1691.

**2024 WELCA ROSTER BOOKS** are 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!

**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 5/3 Field on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please call the church office and indicate how many tickets you will need or see Bob Haar. More details coming soon! It would be great if we could get a big group to attend from First St. John and support the Mud Hens!

**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](http://firststjohndayschool.org)) or contact Andrea Buckley, 419-691-6480.

**THANK YOU FROM LSS:** This Month we welcome Spring, more light to our days and brighter days ahead! Lutheran Social Services has many reasons to be thankful. We are most thankful for our generous donors, like yourself, that assist us in achieving our mission of helping individuals in need. We would like you to know how much we appreciate your generous gift of \$569, and the large donation of food items for our Toledo Food Pantry. You have helped children, adults, and families that need our help desperately. May God bless you as you have blessed our community. ~ *Tracia Jaksetic, VP of LSS*

**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).

**CHURCH WEBSITE UPDATE** Bob Kinsey is in the process of updating our church website. If you head up a group here at FSJ, you may have received an email from him asking for you to confirm info, or asking for pictures. Please respond to him as soon as possible. He is doing a wonderful job creating a new interactive web page for our church which will help people find us better and keep us updated! Thanks Bob!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR MOVIE NIGHT!** The next movie night will be held on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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!

**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](mailto:office@firststjohn.com))

**THE SEARCH CONTINUES** 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).