

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sep 15<sup>th</sup>

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in honor of Todd Probasco for his birthday on 9/14, given by Joan Probasco; and in honor of our 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, given by Bill & Cathy Caldwell; and in loving memory of Nancy Gallaher on her September 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, given by Don & Karen Holmes and Kim & Keith Kwiatkowski.

**MESSENGERS** are in honor of our daughter Karin's birthday and in honor of our 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary, given by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

**ROSE ON THE LECTERN** is in honor of the birth of Arthur William Cola on September 6, 2024, at 5:05 am to Kevin & Rachel (Nelson) Cola. He weighed 7lbs, 1oz and was 21 inches long! Congratulations!

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

9-8-24: 8:00 am: 36 10:30 am: 56 Online: 50 Total: 142

### **OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*Dick Crouse – Gardens of St. Francis*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Deb Ackerman, Angela, Phyllis Brown, Peggy Burk2471@1861 e, Carol Crosser, Dick Crouse, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Isaac Evans, Martha Everett, Family of Tom Hartford, Jody, Kaitlyn, Sharon Kassay, Family of Mark Keller, Deborah Kidwell, Kaylea Kochanski, Rebecca Kohn, Helen K., Paul Lambrecht, Marc LeDuc, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Chad Milner, Family of Janet Mooney, Teresa Nye, John Puhl, Susie Purewal, Pastor Rayl, Skylar, June Smarkel, Family of Greg Wagner, Steve Welling, Dave Wilbarger Sr., 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 SEPT 15 – SEPT 21**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	- Worship Service (Early)
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Quiz (lounge)
	10:30 am	- Worship Service (Late)
<b>Monday</b>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	- Church Council Mtg
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am	- Lounge Rental (Private)

**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!

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** Children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpacks with them to church during the 10:30 am service on Rally Day, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the service, pastor will bless all the backpacks and the children who will carry them during the new school year. Also, we will install our teachers from the Day School and Sunday School at the 2<sup>nd</sup> service as well.

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTERS** are now available! All members and non-members requesting an email or hardcopy should have received them. Hardcopies are also available in the Narthex (lobby) or in the lounge. Please email Jennifer ([office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)) if you did not receive it or would like to be added to the list.

**BIBLE QUIZ & ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us today after first service for the All-American Bible Quiz on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge. Prizes for first and second place. The quiz covers the journeys of the Apostle Paul. So, plan on joining us for coffee and doughnuts today and each Sunday after for Bible Study concentrating on the book of Acts and the letters of Paul and Peter.

**DARTBALL** Dartball season is almost upon us. Teams meet every other Monday night starting on September 30<sup>th</sup> in the church gym. For more information call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. It is easy, fun and fellowship. No experience required. Join us.

**JIM WICKER RETIREMENT** Pastor Jim Wicker served as an associate pastor at First St John from 1996 to 2000. In September, Jim will be celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and moving to the “retired clergy” roster. If you would like to send a card to Jim to help him celebrate his retirement, please send it to: Jim Wicker, 22 Keeling Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526.

**CANDY CRAWL DONATIONS** are needed for the upcoming community Candy Crawl which will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Please place any donations on the table in the lounge, or box in the narthex (lobby). They can also be dropped off to Jennifer in the church office M-F 9am-4pm.

**MONTHLY MINISTRY** Our monthly ministry outreach for September will be our very own, **First St John Day School scholarship fund!** FSJ Lutheran Day School & Child Care Center is a ministry of First St. John Lutheran Church. In cooperation with the congregation and community families, we strive to prepare our students for the academic, social, intellectual, and spiritual challenges they will face as they grow and mature. We recognize that it is a responsibility and a privilege to be entrusted by God and our school families to help guide and develop the character of each student. We believe that each child was born with a unique gift from God and that his/her needs should be met at his/her level of development. The scholarship fund helps those in need of assistance with school costs. *To support this effort, please place your check in the yellow envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office at 2471 Seaman St, Toledo, OH 43605. You can also drop off a donation to Jennifer in the church office.*

**APPLEBEE'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Applebee's Restaurant in Northwood, OH will be open the morning of October 5<sup>th</sup> just for the First St John Day School Flapjack Fundraiser. Come join us and let the First St. John staff and Applebee's serve you a hearty breakfast of 3 pancakes (all you can eat!), 2 slices of bacon, and your choice of beverage (coffee, soda, tea, orange juice or milk). Tickets are \$10 per person (adult or child) and can be purchased in the Day School office or on the Day School website [www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org).

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FUND** we have had an amazing year so far serving over 1,000 Men, Women and Children in our community. It is all made possible by the generous donations and gifts of our congregation and friends. This past month our donations were significantly down, and the number of people we serve continues to rise. We are in desperate need of monetary donations to help purchase items for the pantry. Please consider donating by designating on your offering envelope you would like the funds to go to the Personal Needs Pantry, or by dropping a donation to the church office M-F from 9am-4pm. If you would like to donate items, the full list is in your bulletin and all donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for helping us help others!

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED:** This month's donation focus is adult and children's shampoo (no travel size). Please consider donating! We also have an online Amazon Wishlist with items you can purchase and have directly sent to us! **The number of individuals and families we serve each week has greatly increased, and our donations have been down this month. Please consider picking up an item or two or donating to the Pantry fund to help us purchase much needed items!** Email Jennifer in the office and she can send you the link if you would prefer to purchase items that way! Thanks in advance!

**RALLY/MISSION SUNDAY** Make sure you're here on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> for our annual Rally Day! This year we are also adding a mission component to the day, and we are asking for the congregation's help! On Rally/Mission Sunday, we are asking everyone in the congregation to purchase and donate one or more high need items to benefit our very own Personal Needs Pantry, and/or the Feed Your Neighbor program provided by Lutheran Social Services. Also, the Day School kids will be singing during the second service. Don't forget to also bring your backpacks to church as Pastor Rayl will bless them and the students who will use them. This is a great way to start off the new school year! After the 2<sup>nd</sup> service, we will provide refreshments for all families with children interested in info on Sunday School. Items to donate:

***FSJ Personal Needs Pantry Items: Adult or Children's Shampoo (no travel size), men's or women's deodorant, band aids, toilet paper, adult toothbrush or toothpaste, facial tissues or paper towels (full list in bulletin).***

***Feed Your Neighbor items: canned fruit, canned soups, canned stews, canned ravioli or spaghetti.***

**CEMETERY CLEAN-UP REMINDER:** Fall clean-up of the cemetery will be done on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Please remove any decorative items from the gravestones that you wish to keep **BEFORE** the October 12<sup>th</sup> deadline to avoid them being taken down.

**BELL CHOIR** Our fabulous Bell Choir is looking for people to join us! They meet each Monday at 5:30 pm. We will give you instructions on how to hold and ring the bell. Come and give it a try! Contact Cheri Sergent for any questions at (419) 410-3572.

**BOY SCOUTS** First St. John has been in conversation with the Erie Shores Council of The Boy Scouts of America for establishing a Scouting Pack sponsored by FSJ. At the last Church council meeting approval was given to proceed with organizing the pack which would include both boys and girls according to the recent changes in Scouting by the BSA. Moving forward with this ministry outreach will require assembling a core group of volunteers from the congregation and any supporting groups including the FSJ Day School. These include the core oversight committee to the Cubmaster and Den Leaders. If you feel called to be part of the ministry, please contact Pastor Rayl as soon as possible, 419-691-7222.

**FIRST ST JOHN FAMILY** Thank you all so much for all of your prayers, cards, and well wishes during my recent health concerns. I hope to be able to fellowship again soon. I appreciate all of you!

*~Debbie Ackerman*

**THANKS** to your generous gift of \$124.00, you have made a difference with your support for Genacross Lutheran Services-Family and Youth, where most needed. Your gift is deeply appreciated and allows the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation the ability to support unparalleled Christian care to so many in need.

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

**START A NEW DAILY DEVOTIONAL!** As a reminder, the First St. John Library has a wealth of Christian literary available to be borrowed. Starting this week, you will find some devotionals featured on the table in the lounge that you are able to check out for up to a year! It is a great time to find the perfect devotional to start for this year or check out some other great books both fiction and non-fiction. Instructions on how to sign out a book or devotional are located on the shelves. For any assistance or questions, please see Emily Kruse or call the office at 419-691-7222.

**LAYETTE MINISTRY COLLECTION:** The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are collecting baby care items to make up kits that will be sent to needy families. If you would like to donate, there will be a collection box in the lounge, or you can bring them to the church office. Here are the items we need:

- lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies) \*
  - long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) \*
  - receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
  - cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
  - jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap \*
  - pairs of socks
  - hand towel, dark color recommended
  - bath size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)
  - diaper pins or large safety pins
- \* **Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months**

**FIRST YEAR CATECHISM** Parents interested in their child in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade starting 1st-year confirmation classes should contact Pastor Rayl at (567) 395-0143 or email him at pastor1@firststjohn.com or call the church office, 419-691-7222. You can also attend the orientation class on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:15 am in the catechism classroom. Both parents and students are required to attend.

**NURSERY WISH LIST** As we are starting a nursery, we would like to gather some new items for a fresh start. Instead of a donation tree, we have created an Amazon wish list! Jennifer will email it out on Monday, or email Jennifer directly and she will send it to you. The nursery will be an important ministry as it will allow parents to attend service with care provided for their young children. We are looking for wet/baby wipes, puzzles (large piece toddler/wooden ones), new baby dolls (at least 2), small and large plastic farm animals/people, plastic building blocks, stacking toys, and toddler toys (that are easy to wipe clean), a See & Say, or Pop-Up Pals to name a few. Please NO stuffed animals/toys. Donations can be dropped off during the week to the church office or if using Amazon can be shipped directly to the church. Email Jennifer for the Amazon wishlist link.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** We will be offering a nursery in the fall and are in need of volunteers that could commit to covering the nursery during the second service once a month, or as able. Volunteers will need to fill out paperwork and be background checked for insurance and liability reasons. The process is easy and simple, and your time will help to serve young families in our church! Please reach out to Darlene Paul or Jennifer in the church office at 419-691-7222.

**LESSON READERS NEEDED** As the summer comes to a close, we are in need of weekly lesson readers when we return to two services starting in September. You can choose to read for first service or second service, whatever works best for you! It is a great way to serve, and we would appreciate your help! Please reach out to Jennifer in the office if interested in helping fill our weekly readers or if you have any questions at 419-691-7222.

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP NEEDED:** Flowers on Sundays beautify the sanctuary and are dedicated to the glory of God. You can assist by signing up and using this as an opportunity to honor/remember a loved one. The flower sign up book is in the Narthex, \$15/vase, or call the church office. There are also weekly opportunities to honor or remember a loved one by donating the cost of messengers (\$10), homebound outreach (\$10) and chancel lighting (\$15).