

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sep 29th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Hilda Wiemeyer's birthday on 9/29, given by the Morrison Family; and in loving memory of Rev. Gerald H. Labuhn on the anniversary of his passing, given by David & Cindy Herrera; and in honor of Mark & Deb Ackerman's 41st Wedding anniversary on October 1st, given by family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

9-22-24: 8:00 am: 46 10:30 am: 271 Online: 85 Total: 402
Adult Sunday School: 9

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

Dick Crouse – Gardens of St. Francis

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Deb Ackerman, Angela, Phyllis Brown, Peggy Burke, Carol Crosser, Dick Crouse, Doris, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Isaac Evans, Martha Everett, Linda Hagedorn, Family of Tom Hartford, Jody, Kaitlyn, Sharon Kassay, 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, Marilyn Ulrich, Steve Welling, Dave Wilbarger Sr., Arlene Wilbarger, Donna Winslow

****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 29 – OCT 5

Today	8:00 am	- Early Worship Service
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School (church basement)
	10:30 am	- Late Worship Service/Communion
Monday	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	- Dartball (gym)
Tuesday	11:00 am	- Ruth Circle Mtg (lounge)
Wednesday	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle Mtg (lounge)
Thursday	6:00 pm	- Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 am	- Day School Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
	11:00 am	- Rebecca Circle Mtg (lounge)

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 Join us each Sunday after first service for Adult Sunday School in the lounge starting today, September 22nd. We will be studying the New Testament lesson from the sermon each week. We hope to see you there!

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL starts today at 9:15 am in the JAM Room in the church basement for children ages 3-5th grade! To kick-off the year we will be sharing a special lesson from our VBS this past summer! We hope you will join us!

PASTOR RAYL wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and patience the past few weeks while he has dealt with the injury to his back and the severe pain in his legs and feet. Hopefully things will be back to normal soon.

CANDY CRAWL DONATIONS are needed for the upcoming community Candy Crawl which will be held on October 20th. 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.

FIRST YEAR CATECHISM Any parents interested in their child in 6th or 7th grade starting 1st-year confirmation classes should text Pastor Rayl at (567) 395-0143 or email him at pastor1@firststjohn.com or call Jennifer in the church office, 419-691-7222.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST The next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 12th at 8:30 am at the Woodville Diner. Come join us for faith, fellowship, and fun!

BE A PART OF OUR SCOUTING MINISTRY! We will officially be starting up our meetings to plan for our FSJ Scouting Ministry. Mike Joseph (Mr. J) will be heading up our planning process. The first meeting for planning is open to any adult volunteers on October 7th at 7pm in Room 204 (Catechism room) of the educational building. We will then meet each first Monday of the following month at the same time and place. If any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-1955.

MISSION SUNDAY A HUGE SUCCESS! In conjunction with Rally Day, we held Mission Sunday last week and asked the congregation and children of the Day School to donate items to the FSJ Personal Need Pantry, and the Lutheran Social Services' Feed Your Neighbor Program. We collected 160 canned goods items for Feed Your Neighbor, and 451 items for the Personal Needs Pantry! We had such an awesome response that we are planning to do a Mission Sunday once a month! The carts will be available again this week in the narthex (lobby) for all of those who weren't able to donate last Sunday, and then again on Sunday, October 27th. We will again list high need items as we get closer. Thanks for caring for our community and donating!

APPLEBEE'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST Applebee's Restaurant in Northwood, OH will be open the morning of October 5th 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.

THURSDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY for the remainder of September is cancelled. We hope to restart again in October, every Thursday at 11:00 am in the lounge.

DARTBALL Dartball season is almost upon us. Teams meet every other Monday night starting on September 30th 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.

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.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP REMINDER: Fall clean-up of the cemetery will be done on Saturday, October 12th. Please remove any decorative items from the gravestones that you wish to keep **BEFORE** the October 12th 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.

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

THANK YOU to all who are praying for me and also to those who sent cards wishing me well. Nearly all the choir members have visited and that really perked me up. Again, thanks for your prayers. There's a lot of love at First St. John. Thank you all.

~Dick Crouse

JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSAL! Craig Whitaker, of Craig's Pianos and Keyboards has graciously agreed to temporarily helping fill in as our choir director as we begin to search for a permanent replacement. Choir practice will take place each Thursday at 6pm unless otherwise noted. If you have ever considered being part of our choir, please plan to join us!

AUGUST FINANCIAL UPDATE For the month of August (2024), FSJ income was \$21,739 & the expenses were \$34,380 for a **deficit of \$12,641 for the month.** Year to date we have a deficit of \$25,656. Your church council is 2.70% under the annual budget so the expenses are under control, but our stewardship monies are down 1.32% over last year. With 5 Sundays in September, schools back in session, and vacations completed, we should have increased attendance and a positive month in stewardship.
~Bill Nelson, Treasurer

PORTALS OF PRAYER The October-December Portals of Prayer are now available in the lounge and narthex (library) for pick up. Consider taking an extra to share with family or friends!

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**

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!

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 need 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.

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.

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).

CRAFT SHOW a craft show is being planned for Saturday, November 9th. Please contact Karyl Antoine at 419-350-7040.

ALTAR GUILD will meet on Monday, October 7th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

WELCA will meet next on Monday, October 21st at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are invited to attend.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in October due to other commitments. Stay tuned for our next meeting date.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet next on Tuesday, October 1st at 11:00 am in the lounge.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, October 2nd at 9:30 am in the lounge.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Saturday, October 5th at 11:30 am in the lounge.