

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Oct 13th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill Stahl on his October 17th birthday, given by Sandra Stahl & Family; and in loving memory of Martin Albert Ruedy on his October 14th birthday, given by Kevin & Kristie, and Jared & Wesley; and in honor of Jeffrey & Jennifer Hess' 21st wedding anniversary on October 11th.

MESSENGERS are in loving memory of Ernie on our 74th wedding anniversary, given by Marge Bollinger.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

10-6-24: 8:00 am: 39 10:30 am: 62 Online: 28 Total: 129
Adult Sunday School: 9 JAM Sunday School: 13

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at the time of this printing.

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, Jody, Kaitlyn, Sharon Kassay, Deborah Kidwell, Kaylea Kochanski, Rebecca Kohn, Helen K., Paul Lambrecht, Marc LeDuc, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Angel Miller, Chad Milner, Teresa Nye, John Puhl, Shonna, 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 OCT 14 – OCT 19

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
	2:00 pm	- Chapel Communion
Monday	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
Tuesday	7:00 pm	- Church Council Meeting
Thursday	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study (lounge)
	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal

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!

FOR YOUR SECURITY, please make sure to secure any valuables and lock your car. Unfortunately, as a property with heavy foot and car traffic, unlocked vehicles can be an easy target. Lock it up, keep it safe!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday after first service for Adult Sunday School in the lounge at 9:15 am. We will be studying the New Testament lesson from the sermon each week. We hope to see you there!

HARVEST FESTIVAL is here! The beautiful fall decorations on display have been provided by the Altar Guild to celebrate the fall season! The Quilters Group has also displayed their quilts on the pews for purchase (\$40 each). Please support the quilters by admiring their beautiful work and maybe buying a quilt or two! See Ginny Nissen or Jessie Henneman at early service, or Jane Neal at late service to make your purchases. A big thank you to all the ladies of the church for the beautiful decorations!

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us every Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM Room in the church basement for children ages 3-5th grade! We hope you will join us!

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!

2024 CANDY CRAWL Once again we will host a stop for the local Candy Crawl! This year the Candy Crawl will be held on October 20th from 4-6 pm. The Candy Crawl is a community-wide event where we will pass out candy in a drive-thru format. It has been a big hit the last few years. If you want to donate candy, or are interested in helping, please contact Deb Ladd 419-250-1460, drop off in the church office, or place in the bin in the Narthex (lobby).

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.

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. They will meet each first Monday of the month at 7pm in Room 204 (Catechism Room). The next meeting is planned for November 4th at 7pm. They are in desperate need to fill a few adult volunteer positions so please consider helping to start this ministry which will impact our community. If any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-7583.

CRAFT SHOW CANCELLED The craft show scheduled for Saturday, November 9th from 9am to 3pm has unfortunately been cancelled. Please contact Karyl Antoine with any questions, 419-350-7040.

DARTBALL The Dartball team will play again on Monday, October 21st at 7:00pm in the gym. FSJ #1 will play Prince of Peace, and FSJ #2 will play Trinity. Come on out and support the teams! For additional information, please see Bill Nelson, or Bob Haar.

MONTHLY MINISTRY The ministry outreach for October will be the **Lutheran Disaster Response** in response to the devastating Hurricane Helene that hit the coast recently. Millions are without power as heavy rains continue to fall, causing dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines. Lutheran Disaster Response has strong relationships in the region and is already at working alongside synods and other partners to expand to all impacted areas. By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you enable the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as Hurricane Helene and to remain for as long as the recovery takes. To participate, place your offering in the green envelope in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

A QUICK DONATION NOTE When making a donation to the Monthly Ministry - for example, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), it is recommended that you make out your check to First St. John Lutheran Church. Your envelope and/or check memo line should be annotated with "Monthly Ministry" or the name of the ministry for that month. Your check will be deposited to the FSJ account within one week, and your year-end statement will document this donation. When you make your check out to the ministry (such as LDR), it cannot be deposited into a FSJ account. The check will be forwarded to the ministry the following month, and this contribution will not be documented on your year-end statement. ~Financial Secretary

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.

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. We plan to perform during the 2nd service a few Sundays a month. If you have ever considered being part of our choir, please plan to join us!

SPECIAL MUSIC DESIGNATED FUND A special music fund was recently created specifically to support the talented musicians invited to play at our church. Money from this fund will be used at the discretion of Dr. Tony, our Church Musician, when securing guest musicians. To contribute, donate cash or checks made out to First St John Lutheran Church and simply indicate on your envelope and/or check memo line, that your contribution is to be directed to the Special Music Fund.

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

MOVIE NIGHT On Sunday, October 27th we will host a movie night in the gym. The movie will be "**A Question of Faith**" & the menu will be sloppy joes, cheese slices, & dill pickles, along with the usual Costco cookies, popcorn, chips, snacks, pop, & water. Free will donation, with supper starting at 5:30 PM & the movie starting at appr. 6:15 PM. Hope to see everyone there!

WINTER COAT DRIVE We are a collection site for The East Toledo Family Center's winter coat and gear drive this year. They are especially looking for new or gently used coats (working zippers please) as last collection season the demand was higher than they were able to fulfill. They will also take new hats, and gloves, or monetary donations (See Jennifer in the office). A collection bin is in the lounge for donations. The collection will take place from now until **November 1st**.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER has been emailed out to all who have requested a digital copy. If you did not receive it, please check your spam or junk folder, or contact Jennifer in the office. Hard copies are available for pick up in the lounge and narthex (lobby).

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: One of the hardest items for our pantry to stock is laundry soap and fabric softener, so that is the donation focus for October. We are asking for liquid laundry detergent (32 loads or larger) and Fabric Softener sheets (Qty 40 or more) to last our patrons a month or longer. Please consider donating! 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! Thanks in advance!

2024 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Once again we will be packing shoeboxes to be delivered to children in need around the world. Fill any standard size shoebox with items or grab a red and green Operation Christmas Child box in the Narthex (lobby). The last day to return a filled shoebox to church will be Sunday, November 24th. *If you can, please add \$10 per box to help with shipping.* **Please note that the following items should not be included in your box:** Vaseline[®], scary items, war-related items (such as toy soldiers, military vehicles, or wearable camouflage), liquid paint sets or liquid glue, rubber balls with liquid filling, liquid lip gloss, matches or fire starters, seeds, sand/rocks/shells gathered from nature, all types of food, candy, or gum, medications or vitamins, toothpaste, nail polish, money or play money, baby powder, liquids or lotions, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans, used clothing or toys. Contact Deb Ladd for more details. 419-250-1460.

THE LAYETTE MINISTRY is the Rebecca Circle's mission as part of WELCA. It is an ongoing mission throughout the year. We will be sending this year's donations to hurricane victims in Tennessee and North Carolina. We are so thankful to everyone who donated the beautiful and useful items. The layette box will remain in the lounge until the end of the year. Below is a list of the items we accept.

- 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**

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.

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! 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY November 3rd is All Saints Sunday. We will remember those of our church family who passed away from November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024. If you would like to honor a friend or family member who passed away prior to November 2023, please sign the book which will be located in the narthex (lobby) of the church or call the office at 419-691-7222 to have their names included on the list for that day. Thank you.

MISSION SUNDAY Due to the overwhelming success of our last Mission Sunday in September, another Mission Sunday is planned for Sunday, October 27th. On this Sunday, we are asking the congregation to bring one of the items from the below list to fill the shopping carts that will be located in the back of the church to help stock our very own Personal Needs Pantry, and also the Feed Your Neighbors program provided by Lutheran Social Services. As always, any donation, big or small can make a huge impact! Below is a list of high need items:

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, instant Mac & Cheese, Rice, or potato cups (the kind you just add water).

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).