

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Oct 20<sup>th</sup>**

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Alfred & Naomi Foss and Terry Kruse, given by Emily Kruse (2 vases); and in honor of Bill & Donna Nelson’s 38<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, given by the Nelson Family.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

10-13-24:      8:00 am: 39    10:30 am: 62    Online: 44    Total: 154  
                    *Adult Sunday School: 12    JAM Sunday School: 6*

**OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:**

*None at the time of this printing.*

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Deb Ackerman, Angela, Peggy Burke, Ann Cilinski, 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, LeAnn 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 20 – OCT 26**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	8:00 am	- Early Worship Service/Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School (church basement)
	10:30 am	- Late Worship Service
	4:00 pm	- Community Candy Crawl
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	7:00 pm	- Church Council Meeting
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study (lounge)
	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
	6:15 pm	- Piano Recital 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!

**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!

**J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us every Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM Room in the church basement for children ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> 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** is TODAY, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm! Once again, we will host a stop for the local Candy Crawl! 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 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PIANO RECITAL** The piano students of Vivienne Sommerfield will be sharing pieces they have learned this fall. The abilities of the seven performers range from beginner through high school. In addition, an adult 'beginner' who has published two original compositions! We will start the performance at 6:15 pm in the lounge on October 24<sup>th</sup>. A social time with refreshments follows. You are welcome to come and support our wonderful budding pianists!

**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 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.

**SEPTEMBER FINANCE UPDATE:** For the month of September 2024 (5 Sundays), FSJ income was \$42,470 & the expenses were \$49,475 for a **deficit of \$7,005 for the month.** Year to date FSJ has a deficit of \$32,661. This past month FSJ had numerous maintenance invoices that required payment (ex. cemetery water line replacement, parking lot lane repainting, & final payment of new freezer in kitchen). Your church council remains under the annual budget by 1.90% for expenses & your church campus remains in excellent condition. The next large project that the trustees are working on is the security upgrade that was approved last month. The monies will come from a federal grant that the day school obtained & a portion from the church's improvement fund. NO MONEY will be used from the current operating fund.  
*~Bill Nelson - Treasurer*

**A QUICK DONATION NOTE** When donating 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 in your year-end statement.  
*~Financial Secretary*

**JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSAL!** Craig Whitaker, of Craig's Pianos and Keyboards has graciously agreed to temporarily help 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 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are invited to attend.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Debbie Smith's house. Hope to see you there!

**MOVIE NIGHT** On Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**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 24<sup>th</sup>. *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<sup>®</sup>, 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**

**CHECK OUT A BOOK/DEVOTIONAL!** As a reminder, the First St. John Library has a wealth of Christian literature available to be borrowed. This past week, we received a wonderful new book called 'Women of the Bible' donated by Louise Diersch. It is written in a different format than our other Woman of the Bible books. It is now also available to be checked out! We also received a generous anonymous donation of new devotional books that are also now available. Come check out our book selection on the table in the lounge! For any assistance or questions, please see Emily Kruse or call the office at 419-691-7222.

**CRAFT SHOW CANCELLED** The craft show scheduled for Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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 wish list 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.

**MISSION SUNDAY** Due to the overwhelming success of our last Mission Sunday in September, another Mission Sunday is planned for **Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**. 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 in the back of the church to help stock our very own Personal Needs Pantry, and 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).