

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Nov 24th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of William Wiener on his November 24th birthday, given by Connie and family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

11-17-24: 8:00 am: 48 10:30 am: 69 Online: 36 Total: 153
Adult Sunday School: 11 JAM Sunday School: 9

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

Eileen Young ~ St. Charles Hospital

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Angela, Peggy Burke, Carol Crosser, Doris, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Martha Everett, Family of Linda L. Hagedorn, Linda (Stieben) Hagedorn, Jody, Kaitlyn, Sharon Kassay, Deborah Kidwell, Kaylea Kochanski, Rebecca Kohn, Helen K., Paul Lambrecht, Marc LeDuc, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Diane McGovern, Chad Milner, Sue Moszkowicz, John Puhl, Shonna, Skylar, June Smarkel, Marilyn Ulrich, Steve Welling, Dave Wilbarger Sr., Arlene Wilbarger, Donna Winslow, Eileen Young, Anne Zielinski.

*****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 NOV 24 – NOV 30

<u>Today</u>	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
<u>Monday</u>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir Rehearsal
<u>Wednesday</u>		- NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
<u>Thursday</u>		- NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
		- OFFICE CLOSED – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
<u>Friday</u>	9:00 am	- Church Christmas Decorating
<u>Saturday</u>		- Set Up for Family Christmas Party (Gym)

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 the 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 3-5th grade! We hope you will join us!

A NURSERY IS AVAILABLE during the 10:30 am service. The nursery is in the church basement in the kindergarten classroom and will be staffed with 1-2 volunteers each week. Parents/Guardians can fill out a quick release form for children aged 5 and under and feel free to return to service. We will use text messages to communicate with you if a need arises (please keep phones on vibrate only so as not to disrupt service). For more information, or if you have any questions, please feel free to stop down during second service, or reach out to Darlene Paul.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE WEEKLY Did you know that you can watch a livestream of our 10:30 am Sunday Service? You can find it by visiting www.firststjohn.com/LIVE, or by using the Online Worship link in the middle of the home page or the top navigation ('Worship' then 'Online Worship') on any page.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place after both services on Sunday, December 8th. This will include a 2025 church budget presentation and also a list of new church council candidates to vote on for the 2025 calendar year. All members of FSJ should plan to attend.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING will take place on Friday, November 29th at 9:00 am. If you would like to help decorate, please join us. We definitely will need some muscle to get all the decorations, wreaths, and trees out of storage!

2024 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO TURN IN BOXES as they will be delivered after service. As a reminder, 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.

HELP NEEDED on Saturday, November 30th the WELCA group could use some assistance setting up the gym ahead of the Family Christmas Party on December 1st. Please see Sue Ann Rogers for more details.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY Each year, we participate in the Adopt-A-Family program sponsored by the East Toledo Family Center. This year we are adopting a family of 8 for Christmas who recently lost everything in a house fire. The children in the family range from ages 2 months to 14 years old. Dad also lost all his fishing gear in the fire, and mom is in need of basic cleaning supplies. To help with this we are collecting Kroger and Amazon gift cards. A Christmas tree is also in the narthex with paper ornaments on them. If you'd like to purchase a gift, select an ornament with the gift you'd like to provide. Keep the top ornament for yourself and then on the ornament behind it write your name and phone number. Then place the ornament with your name on it in the small box next to the trees. **No need to wrap the gift.** The deadline to return any gifts will be **Sunday, December 15th**.

J.A.M.'s CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on 2nd service on Sunday, December 15th. If your child is interested in being a part of the program, please make sure that they attend J.A.M. Sunday School each week at 9:15am in the basement as we will be practicing every week!

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.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL UPDATE For the month of October (2024 - 4 Sundays), FSJ income was \$39,368 & the expenses were \$28,664 for a **positive net result of \$10,704!** FSJ year to date finances has a **deficit of \$21,957**, which is a 32.8% improvement from last month. All expenses were at budget with custodial services down by 75% due to collection of reimbursement from reduction of summer hours. Thank-you, thank-you church family for your continuous strong support for your church. *Bill Nelson - Treasurer*

MONTHLY MINISTRY The ministry outreach for November is The Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission. The Toledo Gospel Rescue mission is a local ministry that ministers to the spiritual & physical needs of the homeless and low income throughout northwest OH & Southeast MI. They rely on local support to fund materials, services, skilled trades and volunteers to make this home mission possible. It costs \$20 per person per day to shelter, feed, and care for the men, women, and children that are served at the Gospel Rescue Mission each day. Every donation you make goes to work helping men, women, and children restore their lives! To participate, place your offering in the pink envelope in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST will be held next on Saturday, December 14th at 8:30am at the Woodville Diner. There is room at the table for all so please plan to join us!

SPECIAL MUSIC IN DECEMBER We have two special music guests in December. On Sunday, December 8th at both services, Patricia McCauley will join us again to sing for the Advent season. On Sunday, December 29th during both services, Dana Baker, baritone, will join us again to sing music for the Christmas season. This will be Dana's last time with us as he is moving back to Los Angeles in January. Please make sure not to miss these opportunities which have been provided in part by our congregation's generous donations to the new Special Music Fund.

A QUICK DONATION NOTE When donating to the Monthly Ministry - for example, Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, 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*

DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be moved up a week to Tuesday, December 10th and will be held in the church lounge.

2024 POINSETTIA SALE is now underway. Please see the order form located in the bulletin or included in the November Newsletter to order. Extra order forms will also be printed in the back of the church. Each poinsettia is \$15 each and you can choose between red or white. The deadline for placing orders in time for Christmas is Sunday, December 15th. **Payment must accompany orders.** Contact Jennifer in the church office for more information (419) 691-7222.

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.

REBECCA CIRCLE will not meet in November but will meet next on December 7th at the Old Bag of Nails restaurant for their Christmas luncheon at 11:30 am. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a \$10 gift.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will not meet again until Thursday, December 5th. See you then and Happy Thanksgiving!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER Please consider helping WELCA with their Christmas Cookie Sale that will be held on Sunday, December 15th after both services. To participate and help raise funds plan to bring your baked cookies on Saturday, Dec 14th between 10-12pm. All types of cookies, fudge, bars, or bark accepted. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the lounge on a clipboard. Contact Sue Ann Rogers for more information (419) 280-1310.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY donation item for the month of October is sanitary pads (24 packs or larger). You can deposit items in the bright green bin in the lounge or the pull-out drawer in the narthex (lounge) or drop them off at the office during the week. This is one of the harder items for us to keep in stock, so any donations are welcomed!

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).

DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COOKIES NEEDED The Day School Christmas Programs are coming up December 16-19th. We realize the church is having a cookie sale on December 15th, but we will also need donations of cookies for the family receptions after the programs. If you could drop off an extra dozen or two, the Day School would really appreciate it! Please plan to drop off by Sunday, December 15th and make sure to label them for the Day School Christmas program. These can be placed in the refrigerator in the lounge if needed. Also, if you could help serve that evening during any of the performances, we would really appreciate it. Please contact Andrea in the Day School office at 419-691-6480.

CHECK OUT A BOOK/DEVOTIONAL! As a reminder, the First St. John Library has a wealth of Christian literature available to be borrowed. 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.

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. Some of the items were donated to the relief efforts for the Hurricane this past week. 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**

LAST YEAR DISCOUNT CARD The fundraiser card that was sold last year by the FSJ Day School is set to expire on December 1st. Make sure to use any discounts by the end date to get its maximum value. As always, thanks for supporting our Day School ministry!

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY RSVPs DUE! The Family Christmas party will be held on December 1, 2024, in the gym from 530-8pm. Fried baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and a roll with butter will be served. Karaoke will be the entertainment for the night. We will also hold a raffle basket auction that night. If anyone would like to donate an item, basket, or gift card for the auction please let Sue Ann Rodgers know or drop it off in the church office. Entertainment provided by karaoke Bobby Haar. Come and sing Christmas tunes and hits from the 50s and 60s.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
SPONSORED BY WELCA



Mark your calendars for the **FSJ Family Christmas Party** that will be held on **December 1st** in the gym. 5:30 pm will be a social time, with dinner beginning at 6pm and entertainment to follow afterwards provided by karaoke Bobby Haar. We will be serving fried baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and a roll with butter. Thanks to our FSJ Church Council, this catered dinner will be **FREE** of charge to all who attend. Please RSVP below for your family. Please indicate all who will be attending.

Name(s) _____

of Adults attending _____

of Children attending _____

*****Drop in the offering plate****