

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dec 8th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Faye Louise Nelson’s baptism today, and in honor of Don & Amy Nelson Jr’s 4th Wedding Anniversary on December 5th.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-1-24: 8:00 am: 41 10:30 am: 76 Online: 40 Total: 157
Adult Sunday School: 12 JAM Sunday School: 9

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

Dick Crouse ~ Gardens of St Francis

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Angela, Jerry Brittan, Peggy Burke, Carol Crosser, Dick Crouse, Doris, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Martha Everett, Linda (Stieben) Hagedorn, Jody, Kaitlyn, Deborah Kidwell, Kaylea Kochanski, Rebecca Kohn, Helen K., Lisa, Paul Lambrecht, Marc LeDuc, Family of Judy Lepiarz, Rick Lepiarz, Diane McGovern, Chad Milner, Sue Moszkowicz, John Puhl, Shonna, Skylar, June Smarkel, Traci Spencer, Marilyn Ulrich, Steve Welling, Dave Wilbarger Sr., Family of 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 DEC 8 – DEC 14

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 Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00 pm	- Church Council Meeting (lounge)
Wednesday	11:30 am	- Personal Needs Pantry Volunteers Meeting (basement)
	6:30 pm	- Hannah Circle @ Debbie Smith’s Home
Thursday	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study (lounge)
	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	8:30 am	- Fellowship Breakfast @ Woodville Diner
	10:00 am	- JAM Christmas Program Rehearsal
	11:00 am	- WELCA Cookie Drop-Off

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!

BAPTISM TODAY during the 10:30 am service if for Faye Louise Nelson, born May 14, 2024 to Nelson Jr. and Amy (Ohrtman) Nelson. Faye’s sponsors are Kayla Satkowski and Aaron Meinke.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY after both services. We ask members to stay to hear a short presentation on the 2025 financial budget and vote on new council members for 2025.

PLEASE RETURN BAPTISMAL INSERTS: After the 10:30 service, please place the baptism inserts from the bulletin in the plastic bins located in the Narthex (lobby) or on the small pew by the door near the choir loft. Thank you.

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!

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.

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.

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**. Collection boxes are provided in the narthex and lounge, and gifts can also be dropped off to Jennifer in the church office.

J.A.M.'s CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be during the 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! We will have a dress rehearsal and run through on Saturday, December 14th from 10-noon at the church. Pizza will be provided for the kids!

BE A PART OF OUR SCOUTING MINISTRY! The Scouting ministry meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm in Room 204 (Catechism Room). The next meeting is planned for December 2nd at 7pm. We officially have been designated Troop #58! 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. Also, if you have a child, or know of a child that would be interested in signing up for the scouting program, there is now a button on our website that you can click to fill out an interest form (www.firststjohn.com).

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION We are at the end of another year (I can't believe it) and it's time to think about your 401K or IRA required minimum distribution (RMD). Please remember that First St. John Lutheran Church is a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) - this allowing you to make a distribution from your IRA/401K to 1st St. John without realizing the income tax from distribution. Thank you for this consideration to your church! *Bill Nelson - FSJ Treasurer*

MONTHLY MINISTRY This month's monthly ministry focus will be the Isaiah 117 House in Lucas County. The Isaiah 117 project exists to reduce trauma on removal day for children who are being placed in the foster care system. The house helps lighten the load for caseworkers and ease transition into foster care by creating a 'home' environment where children on removal day can go instead of an office while caseworkers work on placement. This home provides the comforts of home and lessens the impact. Please put your donation in the yellow envelopes located in your pew and place them in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to First St John Lutheran, but indicate "Isaiah 117" in the memo line.

A QUICK DONATION NOTE When donating to the Monthly Ministry - for example, Isaiah 117 project, 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.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm at Debbie Smith's house for a Christmas Party.

2024 POINSETTIA SALE is 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 and available 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.

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 this week's bulleting and 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 December are band aids and disposable razors. Items can be deposited 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.

FSJ PNP PANTRY MEETING We will have a meeting for all current PNP (Personal Needs Pantry) volunteers, and anyone interested in volunteering on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30 am in the church basement. Please plan to attend if you can. Make sure to bring any conflicts for the 2025 schedule as well. Let Jennifer know if any questions, 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).

MISSION SUNDAY UPDATE Our November Mission Sunday took place on Sunday, November 24th. We again collected canned goods and items for the LSS Food Pantry and also personal needs items for our very own pantry. We collected 85 items for the food pantry and 39 items for the FSJ Personal Needs Pantry! The next collection will be on Sunday, December 15th but feel free to drop items off all month in the bins in the church or at the church office. Thanks for your generosity!

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2025 envelopes are now available for pick up! They are on the long white tables in the lounge in alphabetical order. Even if you contribute using Vanco, you will still get envelopes to be used for special services or other donations if requested. If you are interested in receiving paper envelopes, please contact Jennifer in the church office.

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. A few new books have been donated and are showcased on the table in the lounge. One particular devotional is for caregivers of Alzheimer's and dementia patients. 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.

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION If you or a loved one would like a homebound communion visit please call the church office. Bob Haar is temporarily communing the homebound at their request and he will call you to setup an appointment.

QUILTING MINISTRY The Quilting Group will begin meeting on Monday, January 6th at 9:30am. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of a quilt together (you just need to know how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, they follow Oregon Schools for cancellations.

DECEMBER DARTBALL the Dartball teams are back in action next week on December 2nd at 7:30pm at home in the fellowship hall (gym). FSJ Team #1 plays St. Lucas and FSJ Team #2 plays Messiah. Come out and support them!

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.

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**

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP CLASS Pastor will be hosting a membership class in January for all who have newly become members, or are interested in membership. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Rayl (pastor1@firststjohn.com) or call the church office 419-691-7222.