

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Jan 5th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of John Takacs and in honor of Annika Probasco and Meri Askins, giving by Joan Probasco; and in loving memory of Kim Cousino, given by the Cousino family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-29-24: 8:00 am: 26 10:30 am: 64 Online: *no online recording* Total: 90

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

*Dick Crouse ~ Gardens of St Francis
Sue Moszkowicz ~ Kingston, Perrysburg
LeAnn Winslow ~ Moffit Cancer Center, Tampa*

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Angela, Jerry Brittan, Peggy Burke, Carol Crosser, Dick Crouse, Doris, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Martha Everett, Gene Hagedorn, 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., , Donna Winslow, LeAnn 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 JAN 5 – JAN 11

<u>Today</u>	8:00 am	- Early Worship Service/communion
	10:30 am	- Late Worship Service
<u>Monday</u>		- DAY SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION
	9:00 am	- Quilting starts (lounge)
	6:30 pm	- Altar Guild Mtg (lounge)
<u>Tuesday</u>	11:00 am	- Ruth Circle Meeting (lounge)
<u>Wednesday</u>	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle Meeting (lounge)
<u>Saturday</u>	8:30 am	- Fellowship Breakfast (American Table)

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!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are available for pick up for those who ordered in the lounge. This will be the last Sunday they are available for pick up. Please make sure that you take only the color and quantity you ordered. If you need to make arrangements for pick up during the week, please reach out to Jennifer in the office (office@firststjohn.com) or 419-691-7222.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet again for the new year today at 9:15am in the lounge. All our welcome to join each week.

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin again for the new year today at 9:15 am in the JAM room in the church basement.

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.

QUILTING MINISTRY The Quilting Group will begin meeting this Monday, January 6th at 9:30am – 1pm. 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.

THURSDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY will resume for the New Year on Thursday, January 16th at 11:00 am in the lounge. See you there!

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY During worship on Sunday, January 19th you can come to the altar as a family (and yes, one person is a family in God's eyes) and receive a blessing. You can come with different people in your family (you and your spouse, you and your extended family, etc.) or even those you consider as family—as many times as you want. What a wonderful way to begin 2025!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Starting January 12th through February 9th we will participate in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring. We will collect money and canned goods to help the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry program. LSS provides food for over 15,000 people each year. Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchase food for the pantry. A soup pot will be in the Narthex (lobby) to collect monetary donations (starting next Sunday, January 12th)—pocket change, a dollar or two—to help keep this program going. Also, shopping carts will be in the Narthex and lounge to collect canned goods and other non-perishables. Whatever you can do to help support this important ministry is greatly appreciated.

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.

BE A PART OF OUR SCOUTING MINISTRY! Our FSJ Scouting ministry is in full swing and gaining some momentum. We now officially have our pack number (58)! At our most recent church council meeting, Mike Joseph presented the new flag. Now we just need a few more dedicated adult volunteers to hopefully get the necessary planning and organization done so we can start welcoming scouts! If you are interested in joining the scouting ministry, they meet on the first Monday of the month in room 204 (Catechism room) of the educational building. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 2nd at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-7583.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST the next fellowship breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 11th at 8:30 am at the American Table restaurant on the corner of Wheeling and Navarre (note the location change). See you there!

CEMETERY WREATHS we have some leftover cemetery wreaths available for anyone interested. They are located in the boxes next to the church garage doors. Please feel free to grab one or a few.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS All newly elected and incumbent members of Church Council, Day School Board, WELCA, and Altar Guild should plan to attend church on Sunday, January 12th. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2025 duties.

MONTHLY MINISTRY This month's monthly ministry focus will continue to 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.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY donation item for the month of January is dish soap. 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.

GARDENS OF ST FRANCIS PNP DRIVE We were pleasantly surprised to hear that the Gardens of St Francis held a donation drive for our very own Personal Needs Pantry right before Christmas, and also held a Mashed Potato bar with funds benefiting the pantry as well. It was attended by a few of our FSJ members. They raised \$190 dollars and donated 122 personal needs items! What a welcome blessing! Thank you!

DARTBALL will resume on Monday, January 13th. Both FSJ Team #1 and #2 will play away with Team #1 at Trinity and Team #2 at Prince of Peace.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL Our upcoming Council meeting will include our annual dinner for new incoming members as well as the outgoing members. Please note the DATE CHANGE. It will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm at Black Forest Café. The invitation also includes your spouse/significant other. You will need to RSVP to Dave (email.dow@gmail.com / 419-205-7855) or Jennifer (reply to this email) to make an accurate reservation at the restaurant. **Please RSVP by January 19th.**

PORTALS OF PRAYER the new Portals of Prayer for January through March are now available. Please pick up a copy in the lounge or at the back of the church.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, January 7th at 11:00 am in the lounge. We will be starting a new Bible study for the year. Feel free to join us!

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Saturday, January 4th at 11:30 am in the lounge.

HANNAH CIRCLE will not meet in January. The next meeting date will be announced soon!

WELCA BOARD will meet on Monday, January 6th at 6:30 pm at Applebee's in Northwood for their Christmas party.

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

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A 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 devotional is for caregivers of Alzheimer's and dementia patients, but devotionals for many topics are available. If your new year's resolution is to spend more time in the Word, check one out! Our book selection is 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 set up an appointment.

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**