
♥ First St. John Journal ♥

Volume 38, Issue 2

February 2025

*Here are a few thoughts and prayers
for the month of February.*

A Sign of Contradiction

A true Christian is a sign of contradiction — a living symbol of the Cross. He or she is a person who believes the unbelievable, bears the unbearable, forgives the unforgivable, loves the unlovable, is perfectly happy not to be perfect, is willing to give up one's will, becomes weak to be strong, sees some good in every bad and finds love by giving it away. A Christian transcends the natural with the immeasurable power of love and becomes a supernatural person.

Making the Right Choice Makes All the Difference

Choose to love – rather than hate.
Choose to smile – rather than frown.
Choose to build – rather than destroy.
Choose to persevere – rather than quit.
Choose to praise – rather than gossip.
Choose to heal – rather than wound.
Choose to give – rather than grasp.

Romans 6:3-4: New People Make a New Day

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

It isn't Easy, But it is Possible

Christians must face one of the most demanding and difficult commandments of Christ head on. How can we possibly love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for them?

Following this commandment should be one of the hallmarks of our faith. Sadly, it is practiced by very few. Yet, we are all called upon to make a supreme effort to love our enemies. With God's help, we

have the assurance that we will not be judged by our success, but by our effort.

Each Day Should Begin with a Prayer to Make Us Like Jesus

Almighty God, breathe into us the spirit of your Son that we may love the things that he loves and choose the things that he desires us to have. May the words we speak and the deeds we do be spoken and done in his name. Amen.

Prayer for a Kingdom of Love

Love's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; His dominion endures through all ages. Come then, and reign among us, in love and joy and peace. Extend your empire over human hearts; let the burning vision of Your beauty shine out clearly before the eyes of the world.

Hasten the consummation of your kingdom in which love shall be the only king; that the love with which the Father hath loved may be in us, and we be made one in him. Amen.

— *Pastor Rayl*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Be on the lookout for a special announcement in the next few weeks for our Lenten and Holy Week plan for services. Ash Wednesday starts on March 5th this year and Easter falls on Sunday, April 20th. Stay tuned for more info!

CHAPEL COMMUNION NOTICE

Our next Chapel Communion will be held on Sunday, February 9th at 2:00 pm in our chapel which is located on the second floor of the educational building. All our welcome to come!



ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY

8:00 am

2nd Bob Haar
Sherrie Haar

10:30 am

Tom Gaskins
Terry Ruedy

9th Matt Miller
Jim Cousino

Kevin Ruedy
Mike Winslow

16th Ted Hagedorn
Jeff Smith

Dick Haar
John Roth

23rd Tom Gaskins
Terry Ruedy

Bob Haar
Sherrie Haar



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Both men and women are invited to our next breakfast fellowship on Saturday, February 22nd at 8:30 am. We will meet at the American Table restaurant off of Wheeling St in Oregon. Join us for devotions, good food, and fellowship! All our welcome!



REMINDER FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

The sign up sheets for flowers to grace the altar can be found in the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board. You can sign up for a Sunday or Sundays throughout the year. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can use an envelope out of the book for payment. Either place it in the small box on the wall next to the bulletin board, put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. Can't make it to in-person worship? You can call the church office to request a date for flowers. Call Jennifer (419-691-7222).

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Throughout January and February 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. This program is supported entirely by donations of food and money from local congregations.

A soup pot will be in the Narthex to collect monetary donations—pocket change, a dollar or two—to help keep this program going.

Also, shopping carts will be in the Narthex and other locations to collect canned goods and other non-perishables (no glass jars, please). Whatever you can do to help support this important ministry is greatly appreciated.



MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our ministry outreach for February is the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Special envelopes will be in the pews if you would like to donate to support this ministry. Please make your check out to First St. John and write "LSS Food Pantry" on the memo line, then place it in the offering plate or mail to the church. Thank you!

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or e-mail us: office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____



CIRCLE NEWS

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Saturday, February 1st @ 11:30 am in the lounge.

RUTH CIRCLE will not meet in February! See you next month!

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, February 5th @ 9:30 am in the lounge.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet not meet in February.

WELCA NEWS

The board met at Apple Bees on January 6th for our Christmas Dinner/Meeting. We came up with some new events that we are planning for the year. The first event will be on April 13th. We will have a Candy Sale. Bring your candy in on Saturday, April 12th. Sales will be after both services.

The Annual Card Party will be May 13th. A Spaghetti dinner is being planned for October 4th, The Annual Family Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 7th after the late service. Social time will be held at noon and 12:30pm. Lunch will be served. We will also have a silent auction with items for you to bid on. You will have more details in the near future!

Our next meeting will be on February 17th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of First St, John are welcomed to join us! We would love to have your input.

Happy Valentine's Day to all.

~ Sue Ann Rogers, president

2025 WELCA ROSTER

The 2025 roster for the Women of the ELCA at First St. John will be available soon. The roster contains a list of members in each circle, Altar Guild, and Bereavement Committee, along with a calendar of events.

Check the long table in the lounge in a couple of weeks for the completed roster. We'll also notify everyone in the weekly bulletin announcements.



MEMBER UPDATES

Births

1-8-25 *Lainey Ann Hodges*, daughter of Andy and Leslie Hodges.
5lbs, 3oz, and 18.5 inches long

1-23-25 *Evelyn Julia Nelson*, daughter of Ryan and Kali Nelson
7lbs, 7 oz, and 19 inches long

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

None.

MID-DAY MUSICAL WITH DR. PATTIN

Mark your calendar for a mid-afternoon musical concert on Tuesday, February 25th at 1pm. Our very own, Dr. Anthony Pattin will be entertaining us with some live music. More information to come in the weekly bulletin announcements, but please plan on attending if you are able! You won't want to miss it!



SPECIAL MUSIC 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.

ALTAR GUILD

Our next Altar Guild meeting will be held Monday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm in the lounge.



TIME FOR QUILTING!



The Quilting Group meets Mondays at 9:30 am in the lounge beginning January 6th and running through March. 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.

Many of the quilts will be donated to local charities. If you would like to sew quilting blocks at home or if you have any questions, please call Jane Neal at 419-276-5057. Thank you.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY FEBRUARY FOCUS



Our designated item in February is paper towels. Bins for collecting items are under the main board in the Narthex (the left pull-out bin) or the bright green bin in the lounge. Thank you for your help.

Winter Wonderland

Join us March 1st at for an evening featuring dinner, silent auction baskets and comedian Mark Tripp. Shake the winter blues and come out to help First St. John Day School. Adults 18 and over please.

5:30-6:00- Hors d'oeuvres
6:00-7:00- Dinner (buffet, chicken, pork, roasted potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad, dessert)
7:00- Entertainment

\$30/person, \$55/couple, \$200 per table (8 people maximum)

Tickets are available on the Day School website and in the church office

Child care is available for children 3-10 and potty trained. Kids will get dinner, activities, crafts and a movie. \$20 first child, \$15 for each additional child.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025

The assigned 2025 offering envelopes will soon be stored away. If you need to pick up yours still they will be available in the lounge for the next two Sunday.. **NOTE:** If you are new to the church and would like to receive offering envelopes, please contact Jennifer in the church office at 419-691-7222. Thank you.

WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



This Winslow Scholarship helps graduating high school seniors of First St. John who will attend college for the 2025/2026 school year. The money comes from the proceeds of the David Winslow Memorial Golf outing that is held each summer and also donations from church members. If you have a graduating high school senior, please contact the church office for an application. You must return your application to the church office by Sunday, March 30th to be considered.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Winter is here. It may be cold outside, but the students of the Day School are full of energy and excited to be learning at school every day. This February we will have our Valentine's Day parties and prepare the children to learn about Lent.

Registration for the 2025-2026 Day School program will begin later this month. The registration fee is waived for active members of the church, but you still must complete a registration form to reserve a spot for your child. The children must be at least three years old and potty-trained. Our classes are from 9:00 am to noon, with extended care from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. We also offer a Begingergarten program for newly 5 year olds who just miss the normal Kindergarten cutoff. They attend school 5 days a week from 9am-3pm.

We will also be having our Summer Child Care program again this year for children ages 3-12 years old. The Day School will host summer camps each week with a different theme. Both children needing childcare and children looking for fun activities will be welcome. For more information, please visit the Day School website at fsjdayschool.org or contact Andrea Buckley at fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com.

**MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 19th**

First St. John Lutheran Church Prayer Chain
(as of January 30, 2025)

Critical/New Prayer List: For those who need prayers in urgent matters such as surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Will be moved to the Chronic list after the first month unless someone is contacted about special circumstances:

Angela
Jerry Brittan
Peggy Burke
Carol Crosser
Dick Crouse
Doris
Ann Dudics
Duke
Norman Eck
Martha Everett
Jody
Kaitlyn
Family of Matthew Kanavel
Sharon Kassay
Deborah Kidwell
Kaylea Kochanski
Rebecca Kohn
Helen K.
Lisa
Paul Lambrecht
Marc LeDuc
Rick Lepiarz
Family of Albert E. Manteuffel
Barb Meinhart
Diana McGovern
Sue Moszkowicz
Chad Milner
Bill Nelson
John Puhl
Shonna
Skylar
June Smarkel
Traci Spencer
Marilyn Ulrich
Steve Welling
Dave Wilbarger Sr.
LeAnn Winslow
Eileen Young
Anne Zielinski

On-going Concerns Prayer List: For those who need prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles, recovery and/or personal situations. Will be moved off the list after 3 months unless someone is contacted about special/continuing circumstances:

Deb Ackerman
 Bennett
 Elizabeth Bland
 Karen Bless
 Amy Brumley
 Debbie Campbell
 Brenda Chambers
 Marjorie Counterman
 Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
 Isaac Evans
 Brian Everett
 Janet Fern

Joe Frobase
 James Goorman
 Grace Harris Greenbank
 Gene Hagedorn
 Linda (Stieben)Hagedorn
 Holly Henneman
 Gary Henningsen
 Katrin Howard
 Kathy Johnson
 Linda Joshi
 Cindy Knavel
 Tom Kohn
 Eleanor Lang
 Tina McQuilin
 Bonnie Meier
 Patty Meyer
 Deborah Miller
 Donna Miller
 Janet Mooney
 Mary Bell Moore
 Karen Morrison
 Logan Murphy
 Teresa Nye
 Pam Pirolli
 Janet Quiroga
 John Ranchan
 Sherry Reamsnyder
 Steven Riegler
 Rhonda
 Sandra
 Laura Scherer
 Bill Shedron
 Mary Alice Sheehan
 Shelley Sherman
 Connie Singlar
 Jim Sommers Jr
 James Spenthoff
 Julie Swanson
 Tom Tedrow
 Joyce Trowbridge
 Terry Vogalsang
 Deb Dusseau Warnke
 Katelyn Weirich
 Jean Wilson
 Donna Winslow
 John Yard
 Ruth Zasada
 Raetta Zeisler
 Bernie Zielinski

Please check the list and let any of the prayer chain contacts-listed in the next column-know if individuals can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Coordinator, Carol Abbey
 419-351-9795 or cabbeyrn@aol.com

Lynn Folk	419-309-7977
Donna Koehn	419-705-9560
Darlene Lorenzen	419-351-6293
Gloria Ross	419-836-7166

NURSERY OPEN!

The church nursery is now 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. We are also still looking for a few more volunteers! Talk to Darlene or call the church office at 419-691-7222.



SOCKS FOR SALEM

The Quilting group is collecting socks for Salem Lutheran Church's neighborhood ministries. They accept new or gently used socks for men, women, and children. Last time, we collected 179 pairs of socks! Collection box is in the lounge. Donations will be accepted through the end of February. Help us collect even more socks than last year this winter!

FEBRUARY DARTBALL

The Dartball Season continues with home games hosted in the gym. All game start at 7:30pm. Upcoming dates for February are:


<u>February 3rd:</u>	1st St. John #1 @ Trinity 1st St. John #2 @ Prince of Peace
<u>February 17th:</u>	1st St. John #1 @ St. Mark 1st St. John #2 @ St. Lucas

Please mark your calendars. If any questions, reach out to Bill Nelson (419) 836-4165, or Bob Haar (419) 250-9409.

SCOUTING TROOP # 58

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, February 3rd at 7pm. If any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-7583.





SUPPORT US THROUGH

KROGER

community rewards

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

Did you know you can support First St. John just by shopping at Kroger! This past quarter we earned \$86.80 in rewards donated to the church!

This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Kroger Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe or enter your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

1. Create or sign into your online rewards account on Kroger.com
2. Make sure your Kroger Reward Card account is attached to your online account.
3. Under the Kroger Community Rewards Screen, search for First St. John Lutheran, or enter the NPO # WM368.
4. Select the organization and click 'Save'. You are all set! The selected organization will now show on the Kroger Community Reward Page!

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!



The FSJ Day School is seeking donations for their upcoming Winter Wonderland fundraiser that will take place on March 1st, 2025. Please consider donating a themed basket or a gift card to help the Day School's silent auction that will take place during the event. If any questions please contact Andrea Buckley, or drop items off in the church office!