

ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 21, 2025

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in honor of Richard and Carol Haar's wedding anniversary, given by Richard Haar.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-14-25: 8:00 am: 47 10:30 am: 115 Online: Total:

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

*Mary Ellen Miller – Kingston Perrysburg
Carlene Trost - Bay Park*

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Lynn Folk, Darlene Lorenzen, Bill Nelson, Family of Jeff Wilbarger, Rayetta Zeisler, Danielle Riegler, Family of Barb Meyers, Family of Karen Kruse, John Schwegler, Rita Riegler

****Full listing of all prayer requests posted in narthex and lounge.***

CALENDAR FOR DEC 14 – DEC 20

Today	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
	9:15 am	- JAM Sunday School (church basement)
	9:15 am	- Ephesians Bible Study (lounge)
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE/COMMUNION/JAM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
	2:00 pm	-Chapel Communion
Monday	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	-Hannah Circle at Debbie Smith's house
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study
Friday		
Saturday		

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. Lock it up!

LIVESTREAM SERVICE You can find 10:30 a.m service @ 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.

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM room in the church basement. All children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend each week and learn about Jesus! We plan weekly fun activities and events throughout the year!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Please note, because of the cookie sale and the Christmas holiday, we will not have adult Sunday School on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST OR DECEMBER 28TH.**

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY Meets each Sunday at 9:15 am in the lounge. Pastor Rayl is leading Bible Study on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The study will take place in the Lounge with coffee and donuts. Please join us after early service or before late service for this most interesting study. We will resume the study on Ephesians on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 3rd at 9:15 am.** Please join us.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Will be held each week on Thursdays at 11 am in the church lounge led by Pastor Rayl. All are invited to attend!

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.

CATECHISM CLASSES It is time to begin a new Catechism Class. All parents of children in the congregation in grades 5th through 7th at the beginning of this school year are encouraged to join us after the second worship service at 11:45 am. Any questions can be shared with Pastor Rayl by contacting him by email at pastor1@firststjohn.com or by a text message at 567-395-0143. This is a great opportunity for parents to fulfill the promises made at the Baptism of their child.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR-URGENT NEED! Lutheran Social Services continues to need non perishable food items-canned vegetables, canned fruits, shelf stable/powdered milk (no expired foods or items in glass jars). LSS Food Pantry relies on the generosity of local congregations to keep their pantry stocked, your donations are always appreciated! Collection bins in Narthex and Lounge.

We collected 130 items for the Feed Your Neighbor program and the items were delivered to Lutheran Social Services. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause. Remember many local families find it hard to put food on the table during these difficult times. Always remember to support Feed Your Neighbors.

HELP WANTED FSJ is looking to fill the Office Manager position for the church with Jennifer's departure. They must be proficient in Microsoft Office, and Publisher software specifically is a bonus. Excellent written, verbal, and telephone communication skills is required. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter, very organized, able to work with volunteers and people of all ages and give attention to detail. Competitive salary, full time position (30-35 hours a week). Anyone interested should contact Pastor Rayl and email a resume to pastor1@firststjohn.com.

MONTHLY CHARITY MISSION The monthly charity mission for December is Cherry Street Mission. Please consider donating.

HANNAH CIRCLE

2025 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD This year 43 shoeboxes were delivered to Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this goal!

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY donation items for the month of December are band aides, disposable razors, and men and women's deodorant. Items can be deposited in the green bin in the lounge or the pull-out drawer in the Narthex or drop them off at the office during the week.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up. They are located in the lounge. Even if you contribute using Vanco, you will still get envelopes to be used for special services or other donations if requested.

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).

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER WELCA will be putting on their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale that will be on **Sunday, December 21st** after church services. Please consider donating your baked cookies. All types of cookies, fudge bars, or bark accepted. A cookie sign-up sheet will be placed in the lounge. Contact Sue Ann Rogers (419) 280-1310 if you are able to help or have any questions.

NEW MEMBER CLASS Anyone interested in attending a new member class or reviewing their Lutheran faith, please contact Pastor Rayl by email at pastor1@firststjohn.com or by a text message at 567-395-0143. Classes will meet on Sundays after the second service.

QUILTING The quilting group will begin meeting on MONDAYS, starting on **JANUARY 5TH** at 9:30 am. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of the quilts together (all you need to know is how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, we follow the Oregon City Schools for cancellations. If you have any questions, please call Penny DeWitt at (419) 215-1072 or Lore Warnke at (419) 350-0940.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST will be on SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH at 8:30 am at American Table. Please join us for fellowship, a devotion, and interesting conversation. We always have room for you.

DARTBALL will resume next year on MONDAY, JANUARY 12th AND MONDAY, JANUARY 26th. We still need players, men or women. Call Bob Haar at (419) 250-9409 for more information. It's great fun and great fellowship.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM Did you know you can support First St. John just by shopping at Kroger! This past quarter we earned \$65.70 in rewards donated to the church. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on 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 rewards account on Kroger.com or through your app. Select 'REWARDS' from the menu and then 'COMMUNITY REWARDS'.
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 Rewards Page.

ADOPT-A -FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE This year we are adopting a family with seven children. Please note that this year, you can purchase items directly from an Amazon Wishlist. There's a QR code on the back of many of the paper ornaments that you can use to access the list. Or, you can use the link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Y08AVT81M01C/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

(NOTE: There are some expensive items on the Amazon Wishlist. These are not included on the ornaments.)

Please have your gifts returned to church by **Sunday, December 14th**. There will be a box in the Narthex (lobby) and the lounge for gift collection. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Wilbarger at 419-250-4665.

DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COOKIES NEEDED December has arrived and the Day School is in full holiday mode. We were so happy to welcome friends and family to our Thanksgiving feasts and would like to send out a big thank you to all the volunteers that made it possible. Now that the feasts are over, the Day School will be planning their Christmas programs. The children are so excited to share their love of Jesus and the true message of Christmas. We will be asking our church family to donate cookies the week of **December 15-18** to welcome our Day School families to the church to see their children share the joy of our Savior's birth.