

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 28, 2025**

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

12-21-25: 8:00 am: 35 10:30 am: 57 Online: 60 Total: 152  
Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm: 156 11:00 pm: 84 Total: 240

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Bill Nelson, Rayetta Zeisler, Danielle Riegler, Family of Barb Meyers, Family of Karen Kruse, John Schwegler, Rita Riegler, John Rowley, Carlene Trost, Family of Martha Everett

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

**CALENDAR FOR DEC. 28 – JAN. 3**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
		- No Sunday School
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE/COMMUNION
<b>Thursday</b>		- NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Saturday</b>	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle in lounge

**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 am service @ [www.firststjohn.com/LIVE](http://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:** JAM will not meet on **DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>** or **JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>**. Classes will resume on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Christmas holiday, we will not have adult Sunday School today.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am**. Please join us.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will be held each week on Thursdays at 11:00 am in the church lounge led by Pastor Rayl, beginning again on **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>**. All are invited to attend!

**CHURCH FAMILY:** There is still time to contribute to your 2025 stewardship for First St. John! Remember, all contributions can benefit your tax return and you can use your RMD (required minimum distribution) for this stewardship. The finance team will accept all contributions for 2025 through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

– Bill Nelson, Treasurer

**CATECHISM CLASSES:** It's time to begin a new Catechism class. All parents of children in the congregation in grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of this school year are encouraged to join us after the second worship service at 11:45 am beginning **JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet every other Sunday. Any questions can be shared with Pastor Rayl by contacting him by email at [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto: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.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup>** at Ralphie's at 11:30 am.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 11:30 am in the lounge.

**WELCA** Next board meeting will be on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are welcome.

**AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES:** Please join us on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the church for a wonderful music concert! Pianist Tumaini Sango, completing his master's degree from BGSU, will present a diverse program of both classical music and jazz. See you there!

**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 11<sup>th</sup>. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2026 duties.

**FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY** During worship on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2026!

**MONTHLY CHARITY MISSION** The monthly charity mission for December is Cherry Street Mission. Please consider donating. Envelopes are in the pews to use for your donation.

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY** donation item for January is dish soap. 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 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.

**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.

**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).

**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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup>** 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. If you would like a ride to and from quilting, please call Bob Haar at (419) 250-9409. He will be happy to pick you up.

**FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** will be on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>** 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 **MONDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup>** and **MONDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**. We still need players, men or women. Call Bob Haar at (419) 250-9409 for more information. It's great fun and great fellowship.

**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.

**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](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com).

**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.

