

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 25, 2026**

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in honor of Dennis & Karensue Kelley's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, given by the Kelley's.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

1-18-26: 8:00 am: 24 10:30 am: 78 Online: 14 Total: 116

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Family of John Schwegler, Family of Antonio De Leon, Jill Cousino, Duke Dawkins, Lynn Brosius, Family of Jaycee, Rita Riegle, John Rowley, Carlene Trost

**\*\*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 will 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 25– JAN 31**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in lounge/JAM Sunday School
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE / COMMUNION
<b>Monday</b>	9:30 am	- Quilting
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	11:00 am	- Bible Study in lounge
	6:00 pm	-Call Committee Meeting

**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of Antonio De Leon who passed away this week. Also, to the family and friends of John Schwegler who passed away on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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 the 10:30 am service at [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:** 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!

**DECEMBER FINANCES**

*For the month of December FSJ income was \$51,243.00 with expenses of \$31,348.00. This leaves a net gain for the month of \$19,895.00! With this positive December number our YTD deficit is \$10,928.00, which is much improved over our deficit number in November. FSJ does have surplus funds in the reserve account to cover the over-all loss for the church.*

*Your church council did an excellent job in holding overall expenses to budget at 91.50% (w/o salaries), but the congregation's stewardship was down compared to last year by 8.30%. I want to thank the overall congregation for their dedication & stewardship contribution through-out the 2025 calendar year, with renewed hope & praise that we continue to move forward in 2026 for our God & FSJ church.*

*Bill Nelson - Treasurer*

**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!

**QUILTING** The quilting group will begin meeting on MONDAYS at 9:30 am in the lounge. We especially need help tying layers of quilts together (all you need to know is how to tie a knot). Everyone is welcome! 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.

**REGISTRATION FOR DAY SCHOOL** Registration for the 2026-2027 Day School program has begun. The Registration Fee is waived for active members of the church, but you must still complete the Registration Form to reserve a spot for your child. The children must be at least 3 and potty trained. Our classes are from 9-12, with extended care available from 6 am to 6 pm. We will also be having our Summer Child Care program for children ages 3-10 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.

**APPLEBEES'S FUNDRAISER** On **February 7<sup>th</sup>**, the Day School will be hosting a Flapjack fundraiser at Applebee's in Northwood. Come join us and let the First St. John staff and Applebee's serve you a hearty breakfast of 3 pancakes (all-you-can-eat!), 2 slices of bacon and your choice of beverage (coffee, soda, tea, orange juice or milk). Tickets are \$10 per person (adult and child) and can be purchased in the Day School office, church office or on the Day School website. We appreciate your support.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** we will participate in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring through **February 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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~ pocket change, a dollar or two~ anything 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.

**EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY** meeting **TODAY** at 9:15 am in the lounge. Pastor Rayl is leading this study on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Coffee and donuts are provided. Please join us after early service or before late service for this most interesting study.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will be held each week on Thursdays at 11:00 am in the church lounge led by Pastor Rayl. All are invited to attend!

**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 **TODAY**. We will meet every other Sunday. 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.

**DARTBALL** will play on **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.

**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.

**MONTHLY MINISTRY** This month's monthly ministry focus is 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 lessons 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.

**WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP NEWS** This scholarship is for high school seniors who are members of First St. John and will attend college for the 2026/2027 school year. Applications are in the church office. Stop by any time during office hours to pick up an application. Turn in your completed application to the church office by March 30<sup>th</sup> to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

**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 devotional booklets 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.

**WELCA** Our 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 to attend.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** is meeting for dinner at Mexican Lindo's on Navarre Avenue on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 29<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm.

**FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** The next fellowship breakfast will be on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30 am at American Table restaurant.

**HOMEBOUND COMMUNION:** If you or a loved one would like a homebound communion visit, please call the church office. Bob Haar is communing the homebound upon request, and he will return your call to set up an appointment.

**FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR** 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. 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 the Feed Your Neighbor ministry.

**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.

