

ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 4, 2026

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Kim Cousino, given by the Cousino family (2 vases); and in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary, given by Clyde and Debbie Reynolds.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

12-28-25: 8:00 am: 20 10:30 am: 65 Online: 64 Total: 149

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Duke Dawkins, Lynn Brosius, Bill Nelson, Rayetta Zeisler, Danielle Riegle, Family of Barb Meyers, Family of Karen Kruse, John Schwegler, Rita Riegle, John Rowley, Carlene Trost, Family of Martha Everett

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

CALENDAR FOR JAN. 4 – JAN. 10

Today	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE/COMMUNION
		- No JAM Sunday School today
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in lounge
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE/COMMUNION
	11:45 am	- Catechism
Monday	9:30 am	- Quilting
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	- Altar Guild Meeting
Tuesday	11:30 am	- Ruth Circle at Ralphie's
Wednesday	9:30 am	- Miriam Circle in lounge
	6:00 pm	- Choir
Thursday	11:00 am	- Bible Study in lounge
Saturday	8:30 am	- Fellowship Breakfast at 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. Lock it up!

LIVESTREAM SERVICE: You can find the 10:30 am service at 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 TODAY.** Classes will resume next **SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th**. 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!

QUILTING STARTS TOMORROW The quilting group will begin meeting on **MONDAYS**, starting **TOMORROW** 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.

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY resumes 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, beginning again on **JANUARY 8th**. 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 5th through 7th 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.

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

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 **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.

AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES: Please join us on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 13th** 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 11th**. Officers will be installed during both church services as they begin their 2026 duties.

JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL DINNER: Our upcoming Council/Dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 pm at Tony Packo's on Front St. All new incoming members as well as outgoing members and their spouses or significant others are invited. The church will donate \$10 towards each person's meal. Please RSVP to Dave Wilbarger at email.dow@gmail.com or 419-205-7855 or to the church office at 419-691-7222. **Please RSVP by Monday, January 19th**.

FAMILY BLESSING SUNDAY During worship on **Sunday, January 18th** 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!

THANK YOU: Thanks so much to everyone who bought a gift for the Adopt-a-Family Christmas project in December. We were able to help a family with seven children this year! The gifts were delivered a few days before Christmas and were greatly appreciated.

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 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 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 16th** at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

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.

