

ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 22, 2026

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Marcia Henninger, given by Darold Henninger; and in loving memory of David Winslow, given by Mike and Donna Winslow; and in loving memory of Ed Schweizer on his birthday, February 17th, given by his loving family and wife.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

2-15-26: 8:00 am: 25 10:30 am: 86 Online: 46 Total: 157

Fellowship Breakfast: 18

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Jim Dukeshire, Family of Craig Pym, Family of John Schwegler, Family of Antonio De Leon, Jill Cousino, Duke Dawkins, Family of Jaycee, John Rowley

****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 FEB 22– FEB 28

Today	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in lounge / JAM Sunday School
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE / Communion
Monday	9:30 am	- Quilting
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
Wednesday	11:00 am	- Lent Service
	7:00 pm	- Lent Service
Thursday	11:00 am	- Bible Study 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 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 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!

JANUARY FINANCES For the month of January (2026) , *FSJ income was \$26,357.00 with expenses of \$33,529.00. This is a deficit of \$7,172.00 YTD. Please remember that due to bad weather FSJ did not have a Sunday service on 01-25-26. This made an impact to our bottom line for the overall month. Please let's try to make up this deficit during the month of February. We will have many opportunities with the Lent season starting in February & there are five (5) Sundays in March. Thank you, Bill Nelson (Treasurer)*

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL BOWLING EVENT Please join us for pizza and bowling on **Sunday, March 1st** at Toledo Sports Center from 4-6pm. All are welcome. Please RSVP the number coming and the number bowling to Gwynne Lorenzen at (419) 343-2182. We hope to see you there!

CANDY DONATIONS The Sunday School is having an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on **March 15th** and is asking the congregation to donate candy to fill the eggs. Please drop off donations in the lounge or the church office by March 13th. Thank you.

SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION The day school would like to thank everyone who attended our Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser. We raised over \$2,000! Your presence, enthusiasm, and support truly made it special. It was wonderful to see everyone come together and contribute to such a positive and engaging atmosphere. We appreciate the time you took to join us and help make the event a success. We look forward to seeing you at future gatherings!

2026 WELCA BOOK The WELCA book is available for pick up. Copies are located on the tables in the lounge and in the Narthex. Pick up your copy today!

REBECCA CIRCLE Next meeting will be on **Saturday, March 7th** at 11:30 am. The Rebecca Circle is involved with the Layette Ministry. They put together baby care kits and send them to different locations each year. Recent care kits have been sent to North Carolina, West Virginia, and Roanoke, Virginia. Please support this ministry by donating items for the kits.

LENT SEASON SCHEDULE Lenten season is upon us and services will be at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm each Wednesday for Lent until Easter on Sunday, April 5th.

GREETERS If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter at church services, please contact Beth Hugueley at 419-350-0529.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE We are still awaiting any candidates who might have an interest in becoming an associate Pastor at FSJ. The committee has met recently to review our interview questions and are planning on scheduling a meeting with the ELCA representatives to run through a "mock" interview so that we are comfortable with the interview process. If you have any specific questions, please reach out to the Call Committee. You can call or email Dave Wilbarger at email.dow@gmail.com or 419-205-7855.

MUD HENS TICKETS Baseball season is almost upon us and soon the sound of "Play Ball" will be heard at Fifth Third Field. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 31st**. Our church family will have another opportunity, hopefully without rain this time to cheer on the Toledo Mud Hens. Tickets are \$11. Please let Bob Haar know if you're going and how many tickets you need. We are limited to 30 tickets.

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 years old and potty

trained. Our classes are from 9:00am - noon, with extended care available from 6:00 am to 6:00 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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING we will participate in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring through the month of **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. 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. So far, we have collected 101 non-perishable food items. Hunger in Toledo happens 24/7, 365 days a year, so please continue to support Feed Your Neighbor. Thank you.

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.

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. 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.

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!

DARTBALL The dartball tournament is **Monday, March 2nd** at 7:00 pm sharp! Seed drawings between 6:30-6:45 pm. Also, be sure to bring money to the tournament to pay for tickets to the Dartball Banquet at Prince of Peace on **Monday, April 20th** at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$16.00. See Ron Wells of Prince of Peace at the tournament to buy your tickets. Ticket money is due at the tournament. Remember, we will make up games on **Monday, March 9th**, unless you have made arrangements to play on another Monday night. If you have any questions call Bob Haar at (419) 250-9409 for more information.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY donation item for February is paper towels. 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 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!

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 30th to be considered. Money is supplied from proceeds of the Winslow Memorial Golf outing held each summer, along with donations from church members.

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.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST The next fellowship breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 14th** at 8:30 am at American Table restaurant on Wheeling Street. Please join us, there's always room for more.

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 \$63.96 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.

