

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 15, 2026

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

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

3-8-26: 8:00 am: 22 10:30 am: 65 Online: 32 Total: 119

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Eileen Young, Family of Betty Anderson, Jim Dukeshire

**\*\*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](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)\*\***

### **CALENDAR FOR MAR 15– MAR 21**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE / Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in lounge / JAM Sunday School / Easter Egg Hunt
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE
	11:45 am	- Catechism
<b>Monday</b>	9:30 am	- Quilting
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	- WELCA meeting in the lounge
	7:30 pm	- Dartball (H)
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 pm	- Committees Meeting in the lounge
	7:00 pm	- Council Meeting in the lounge
<b>Wednesday</b>	11:00 am	- Lent Service
	7:00 pm	- Lent Service
<b>Thursday</b>	11:00 am	- Bible Study in lounge
<b>Saturday</b>	9:30 am	- Cemetery Clean Up

**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!

**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.

**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of Betty Anderson who passed away on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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!

**CEMETERY CLEAN UP** We will have our semi-annual cemetery clean up on **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** at 9:30 am. Volunteers are needed—the more hands we have, the quicker we finish. Please remove anything from a grave that you would like to keep—older decorations, grave blankets, and especially anything from Christmas—*before* **March 20<sup>th</sup>**. If interested in helping, reach out to Bill Caldwell.

**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!

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

**LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF MERCY** *Two delegates from First St. John attended the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM). LMM is affiliated with Filling Memorial Home (67<sup>th</sup> annual meeting), Luther Home of Mercy (98<sup>th</sup> annual meeting), & Lutheran Social Services NWO (115<sup>th</sup> annual meeting).*

*The theme this year was "rejoicing in hope". Hope wears many faces whether it's a person with developmental disabilities, mental / behavioral health issues or in need of food for their families. During 2025 there were 29,200 clients served between the affiliates, 360,500 meals to food pantry clients, with 16,400 volunteer hours served.*

*Guest speaker for this event was Toledo Mayor - Wade Kapszukiewicz, with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin conducting introductory remarks & Bishop Chester Trail conducting closing prayer.*

*~Bill Nelson*

**FINANCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING** A finance meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. The finance committee will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the finance room. This will give us a week to review prior month financial report and discuss any pending and future expenses prior to Council meeting.

**PRAYER BUDDY EGGS** Please choose an egg from the box in the Narthex. Eggs can be filled with a written prayer or words of encouragement and a small toy or candy to help celebrate the joy of Easter. We ask that during this Lenten season you take some time to pray for this child or staff member and their path towards Christ. Eggs will need to be returned by **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**.

**MATERIAL FOR QUILTERS** The quilters are looking for new/unused material to continue their mission this year. Please go through your craft closets now and donate any materials you no longer have use for, all yardage useable. Donations may be dropped off at the church.

**WELCA** The next WELCA meeting will be on **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are invited to attend.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** 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 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. PAUL'S CAFÉ** is in need of help at their Café. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, free meals are offered with a warm space and some clothing. They are looking for people who could help sort clothing and be with those who are eating. The time would be from 9:30-11:00 am, and you could come regularly or on an occasional basis. If you are available you may contact the Office at 419-243-4241 or [office@stpaulstoledo.org](mailto:office@stpaulstoledo.org).

**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 31<sup>st</sup>**. 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 collected socks for Salem Lutheran Church's neighborhood ministries during the month of February as they have done in the past. This year they collected **123** pairs of socks for Salem Lutheran! This donation will go a long way to help Salem Lutheran help the homeless and needy in our community. Thanks to all who donated!

**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.

**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.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** Thank you to everyone who made donations for the souper bowl of caring.

We collected over 120 product donations and collected \$450 in monetary donations. Thanks again for your generous donations!

**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.

**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 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. 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 next dartball game will be **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** at FSJ at 7:30 pm. The Dartball Banquet at Prince of Peace will be on **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions call Bob Haar at (419) 250-9409 for more information.

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY** donation item for March is toilet paper. 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 Luther Home of Mercy. 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 "Luther Home of Mercy" 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 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.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER:** The new Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for April through June will be available on March 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.