

ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 22, 2026

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in memory of Erwin Vogelsang and Eardley Schuetz on their birthdays, given by the Schuetz and Cromly families. Also given in memory of Lola Crouse on her birthday on March 26th, given by Toni & Dave Wilbarger.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

3-15-26: 8:00 am: 21 10:30 am: 77 Online: 42 Total: 140

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Kate Gladieux, Ron Robeson, Owen Baker, Family of Raymond Cousino, 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****

CALENDAR FOR MAR 22– MAR 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!

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.

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Raymond Cousino, Sr. who passed away on March 14th.

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!

FEBRUARY FINANCES For the month of February, FSJ operating income was \$22,762 & the expenses were \$38,871; this leaves a deficit of \$16,109 with a YTD deficit of \$23,281. Cost was increased due to a \$5,350 snow/ice invoice and salary invoices catch-up from the first of the year. Utilities were higher due to the cold weather as well. Remember your "white envelopes" stewardship is used for everyday expenses ex. (utilities, salaries, custodial, & etc.). Treasurer - Bill Nelson

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 13th annual meeting of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM). LMM is affiliated with Filling Memorial Home (67th annual meeting), Luther Home of Mercy (98th annual meeting), & Lutheran Social Services NWO (115th 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 14th**. The finance committee will be meeting on the 2nd 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.

WELCA The next WELCA meeting will be on **Monday, April 20th** 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. Services will be at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 25th and Maundy Thursday, April 2nd. The service for Good Friday will be on April 3rd at 12:00 pm.

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.

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.

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 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 Banquet at Prince of Peace will be on **Monday, April 20th** 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 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 April through June are 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.

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.