

ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 12, 2026

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in memory of Thomas Hartford on his birthday on April 12th, given by Michelle Garee, Thomas Hartford, Jr. and family. Flowers are also in memory of William J. Moritz on his 100th birthday on April 16th, given by Julie Moritz and family; and also in honor of our grandson Thane on his 6th birthday, given by Richard & Carol Haar.

HOMEBOUND OUTREACH given in memory of Joan Bailey and in honor of her grandson, Ryan Abbey on their birthdays, given by family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

4-5-26: 8:00 am: 90 10:30 am: 119 Online: 72 Total: 281

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Family of Karen Bless, Family of Jim Dukeshire, Family of Eileen Young, Karen Herrera, Ron Robeson, Owen Baker, Family of Raymond Cousino, Family of Betty Anderson

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 APR 12 – APR 18

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| Today | 8:00 am | - EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE |
| | 9:15 am | - Adult Bible Study in lounge |
| | 10:30 am | - LATE WORSHIP SERVICE / Communion |
| Monday | 5:30 pm | - Bell Choir |
| Tuesday | 6:30 pm | - Finance Meeting |
| Wednesday | 6:00 pm | - Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday | 11:00 am | - Bible Study |

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 Karen Bless, who passed away on April 8th.

EASTER FLOWERS Please remember to pick up Easter flowers after church services TODAY. Any remaining flowers will be removed from the lounge on Monday. Thanks.

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!

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. Donations may be placed in the collection box located in the lounge. Items for the kits include:

2 lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies) *

2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) *

2 receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

1 jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap*

2 pairs of socks

1 hand towel, (dark color recommended)

2 bath size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)

2 diaper pins or large safety pins

* **Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months**

MUD HENS TICKETS The church family outing at the Toledo Mud Hens baseball game is rapidly approaching. The date is **Sunday, May 31st** at 2:00 pm. Gates open at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$11.00 each. Remember that this is the weekend AFTER Memorial Day. Deadline to give Bob Haar ticket money is Sunday, May 3rd. We have up to 30 tickets available and 11 are already spoken for. Also, remember that Fifth Third Field only accepts credit cards for food and drink payments and there is no Muddy shuttles on Sunday.

CHURCH LIBRARY We have recently added some new titles to the church library. They are located on the long tables in the lounge. Our library uses a card checkout system, please remember to sign out your selections. If you have any questions or comments, contact Emily Kruse at 419-654-2842.

THANK YOU The bereavement committee would like to thank everyone who donated dishes/food for the bereavement dinners. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

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.

DAY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 2026/2027 school year will be the Day School's 50TH anniversary! So many children have passed through our doors, and I hope that we have successfully planted the seeds of God's love in those little hearts. On **Sunday, September 13th** the church and the Day School will be hosting a celebration at Oak Shade Grove. It will include an outdoor church service, BBQ, family activities and competitions and a free concert featuring Yancy, a nationally known children's Christian singer/songwriter. This event will be for church members, alumni, neighboring church parishioners and the community. After Easter, the Day School will be organizing volunteers for this amazing event. Mark your calendar and get ready to praise God in celebration of 50 years of this amazing ministry.

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 April is facial tissues. 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!

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 are located in the 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.