

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 19, 2026**

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in honor of Robin Kovesdi's birthday, given by Emee Kovesdi. Also, in memory of Kenny Villhauer, given by Tom & Shelley Garrett and Dave & Sue Kimmet; and in memory of our grandson, Logan Roberts, given by Terry & Diane Roberts and family.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

4-12-26: 8:00 am: 21 10:30 am: 57 Online: 36 Total: 114  
Fellowship Breakfast: 19

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

**\*\*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 19 – APR 25**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE / Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in lounge / JAM Sunday School
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE
<b>Monday</b>	11:45 am	- Catechism
	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	- WELCA meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	- Council meeting with Committees meeting at 6:30 pm in the lounge
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	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](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 Karen Bless, who passed away on April 8<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!

**MARCH FINANCES** *Income for month of March was \$36,512; the expenses were \$34,408. This leaves a positive outcome for the month of \$2,104; YTD, FSJ is at a deficit of \$21,177. Thank you church family for the positive March outcome. FYI, we had a total cost of \$9,341 for snow & ice removal this year; this is up over 50% compared to last year. Please continue with your stewardship in April in order to reduce our current deficit. Thank you, Bill Nelson (Treasurer)*

**WELCA** The next WELCA meeting will be on **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are invited to attend.

**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.

**MOVIE NIGHT** It is time for our next Movie Night on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The movie's name is "Faith of Angels". It is based on a true story and rated one of the best faith-based movies of 2024. There will be a light dinner at 5:30 pm. The light dinner will consist of hot chicken sandwiches (with cheese slice on top), dill pickle slice, popcorn, Costco cookies, snacks, pop, and water. A free will donation will be taken, and any extra funds will go to the Sunday School. The movie will start around 6:15 pm. Please plan to join us and bring a comfy chair. This movie is great entertainment for all, come and see what "faith can accomplish".

**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 31<sup>st</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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. Any questions, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

**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 Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Bob is communing the homebound upon request, and he will return your call to set up an appointment.

#### **DAY SCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The 2026/2027 school year will be the Day School's 50<sup>TH</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**DARTBALL** 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.

**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](mailto: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!

**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!

**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 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.