

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus Street
Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297
614-875-2314

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ORGANIZATION
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DATED MATERIALS

April 2020

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Eagle

April 2020



Building Renovation Update!!

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Back in 2018, the initial basement restroom renovation team (Shirley Blake, Dennis Imbrock, Wayne Beavers, Beth Katterhenrich, Karen Bentley, Cathy Howard, Annette Utzinger) with the help of Dan Yeater (Council Treasurer), Mike Esposito (Business Manager), and Doug Jones (Custodian), and the 2018 Church Council, began planning and implementing the renovation of the church basement restrooms. In the months since then, amazing changes have taken place. With the help of countless individuals, both paid professionals and skilled volunteers, including Wayne's son, Clint, his wife, Carla, son-in-law, David, and DOCS Tile LLC employees, Tom and Rita Lang, Tom and Sally Weisenberger, Elaine Bennett, Michael Grimm and many others, a beautiful renovation of the restrooms has been completed and so much more! Repairs have taken place, the flooring has been replaced, the basement has been painted, and the finishing touches are in the process of being completed.

Throughout this process, all those involved have been aware of our many blessings. The initial team began with prayers for God's guidance and support. He certainly provided!

We were supplied with skilled volunteers, helpers, and the needed construction professionals who helped us through all the usual pitfalls of any renovation.

All those involved were provided with the physical health and strength needed for the tasks at hand and were protected from injury.

Those who worked on the various aspects of the project were blessed by wonderful teamwork and communication.

Generous contributions and the giving of special God-given gifts and talents were evident throughout this project.

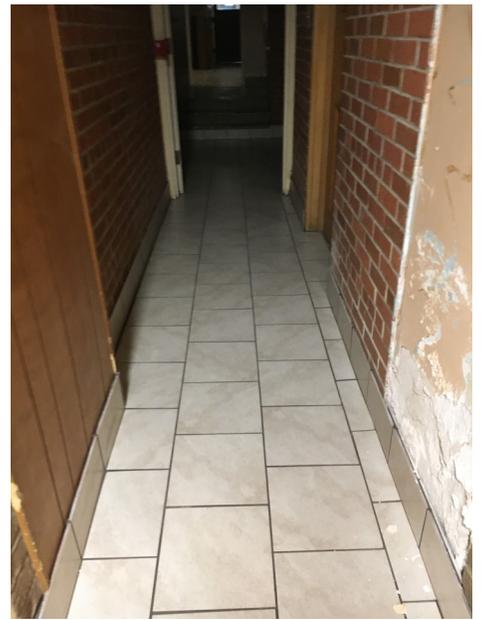
Legacies of support and love for St. John's were demonstrated.

Sacrificial stewardship was and continues to be displayed.

Many of us involved in St. John's most recent Small Group Bible Study: Deeper Water in Our Christian Stewardship, have appreciated the stewardship examples provided by watching the basement renovations unfold. Our church family has come together with their time, talents, and treasures to accomplish something needed and valuable. As we appreciate the gift of St. John's, while valuing and maintaining it in a fashion pleasing to Him, we can continue to contribute by sharing our many gifts. To God be the glory.

Stewardship is receiving and sharing God's bounteous gifts and managing them for the best promotion of God's purposes in the world. [Milo Kauffman (1975)]





**Thanks to Thrivent and its members, in the last 3 months,
\$3250 has been given in \$250 grants to various ministries around St. John's.**

Thank you sooo very much to:

Sue Sutton
Sue Sutton
Larry Sutton
Larry Sutton
Dennis Imbrock
Dennis Imbrock
Diana Imbrock
Brad Wahl
Dwight Henricksen
MacKenzie Hutson
Jennifer Uhrin
Janet Wittenberg
Donna Linder

Adventure Club
Bed Brigade
Energizers
Children's Church
Homebound Caroling
Bike Project
Blankets of Love
Blankets of Love
Mission Pancake Dinner
Jr. Sr. Prayer Retreat
Card Ministry
Hospital and Homebound
Easter Family Fun Night

Food and Programming Supplies
Bibles
Snacks and Programming Supplies
Rhythm Sticks, Craft Supplies, and Puppets
Gift Bags for the Homebound
Snacks
Sheet Sets
Sheet Sets
Food and Paper Products
Meals and Programming Supplies
Card-Making Supplies
Crosses and Devotionals
Food and Craft Supplies



THRIVENT[®]
Be Wise With Money™

**There are several more in the works! In addition to Thrivent Choice Dollars, members may apply for one or two Action Team grants of \$250 each. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to support ministries here at St. John's with a grant, contact Diana Imbrock for details.*

Mother's Day Bouquets!

Be sure to get the flowers you want for that special mom, aunt, grandma, or person in your faith web. There is a beautiful selection below that you can pre-order.

Happy Mother's Day



The sale will be on Mother's Day weekend, before and after all worship services, in the Link and North Entrance.

Place your pre-order below and drop it off in the church office or place in offering plate. **The deadline for pre-orders is Sunday, May 3rd.**

You can pick up your pre-ordered flowers on Mother's day weekend, before and after all worship services.

We will have single carnations Mother's Day weekend for \$1 each, as well as some wrapped spring bouquets (\$15 each). There will be a limited number of these flowers. It's best to pre-order to ensure you get flowers for that special lady.

Need your flowers BEFORE Mother's Day weekend OR would like to order something special? For specialty orders or delivery, call Rita Bausch at 614-701-8902 and mention "St. John's Missions" when you order. Rita is a member of St. John's and owner of Prairie Flowers and Gifts. She is partnering with us on this sale. *Thank you Rita!*

PRE-ORDER MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Deadline: Sunday, May 3rd

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Please mark one:

I will pick up my flowers in the _____ **Link** or the _____ **North Entrance**

Please mark item(s) you would like to order.

_____ \$25 A colorful spring mix of fresh flowers, arranged in a basket.

_____ \$25 A colorful spring mix of fresh flowers, arranged in a vase.

_____ \$15 Wrapped assortment of colorful fresh flowers to put in your favorite vase.

_____ \$18 Blooming flowers (two) in a basket, with bow, to enjoy indoors or outdoors.

_____ \$40 Garden mixed pot, assorted blooming annuals come in a 10 inch pot, ready to set on your porch.

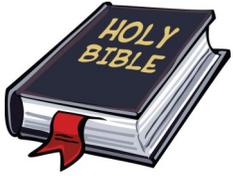
Checks made out to: "St. John's Lutheran"

For specialty orders and delivery within the Grove City area, call Rita Bausch at 614-701-8902 and be sure to mention "St. John's Missions".

Thanks for supporting missions!

The Lenten Bible Project!

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105



The Bible Project started on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26th and goes through Lent, until Easter Sunday, April 12th.

The 3rd—6th grade students are collecting monies to buy new Bibles for the Bed Brigade. When the Bed Brigade delivers beds, families will get a new Bible!

Matthew Little

“My favorite story of the Bible is David and Goliath. This story is about a soldier from the Philistines of enormous size that challenges Jerusalem (Goliath). A small shepherd boy (David) chooses to fight him off with merely five stones and a sling shot. He shoots between Goliath’s eyes killing him and the army is scared away. I like this story because it is quite action packed, and it shows that anyone of any size can stand if they have God with them. I think everyone should read this story because it empowers anyone of any size or heritage. ‘Little people can do big things!’ Please give to the Lenten Bible Project so the world can learn about the love of God.”

Brooklyn Cress

“My favorite Bible verse is 1 Peter 2:9-10. It says, ‘But you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who have called you into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.’ This helps me know that no matter what, we were chosen by God. Nothing can separate us from God because he chose us. It helps me know that God sees the good in me. When kids at school tell me that I am not good enough, this verse helps me know that I am good enough. That I am chosen by God. Supporting the Lenten Bible Project will help give Bibles to others, so they can see that they are chosen by God as well.”

Hunter Thompson

“My favorite story of the Bible is Jesus’ Death and Resurrection. This story is about when he dies and comes back to life. I like this story because Jesus dies for our sins. I think everyone should read this story because they should thank the person who died for our sins. Please give a donation to the Lenten Bible Project so people would know His word.”

Corban Allman

“My favorite story of the Bible is when Nicodemus meets with Jesus. This story is about Jesus telling Nicodemus about heavenly things and Nicodemus struggles with understanding. I like this story because Jesus gives the great news of everlasting life. I think everyone should read this story because of the great news delivered in John 3:16. ‘For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.’ Please give a donation to the Lenten Bible Project so people in need can enjoy a Bible.”

Jake Westerfeld

“My favorite story of the Bible is Jesus’ birth. This story is about when Jesus was born. I like this story because it is soooo fun to read. I think everyone should read this story because it is important. If Jesus wasn’t born we wouldn’t all be alive.”

Colton Thompson

“My favorite story of the Bible is David and Goliath. This story is about where Saul’s soldiers were scared of Goliath. David wasn’t afraid because God was with him. David picked up stones and fired at Goliath and the Philistines ran away. I like this story because David said God was with him. Please give to the Lenten Bible Project so people can learn about Jesus and read about different stories of the Bible.”

Elizabeth Circle
Contact Debbie Abbitt
614-326-9253



Sarah Circle
Contact Vi Davis
614-875-2605

WOMEN OF THE NALC

Here's a spiritual growth goal: join a Circle of friends. Joining our Circles is an easy way to make new friends and grow spiritually. Both Circles have evening meeting times. Contact the leaders listed above for information.

Applications for the Lutheran College Tuition Grant for fall semester should be filed by Friday, May 15th with the church office. If you're a member of St. John's and attending a Lutheran affiliated school (for example: Capital University or Wittenberg) then your school likely offers a matching grant up to \$500. Get your application from the church office.

PARENTS OF 6TH GRADERS: It is time to start thinking about confirmation for your son or daughter. Confirmation typically begins in August of a student's 7th grade year. If you fit the bill and plan to be a part of the catechism program next fall, please get your email address to Gary...he has some "save the date" type information to get to you. His email is gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org.

THE SUMMER CAMP 2020 REGISTRATION FORM is located on the youth office door and in the link area. There is an April 15th deadline for Camp Faith, Faith in Action, and The Academy at Heartland. This allows us time to appropriately plan and get to each camp the required papers they request of us. If you have any questions about any of the Summer Faith Adventures for 2020, please talk to Gary, Laurie, or Diana. We are very much looking forward to an awesome summer of faith adventures, servicing others, and developing Christ-centered leaders for the church! And, of course, it's a LOT of fun! And there is plenty of faith webbing! Don't miss out, register by April 15th!



Comedy Night



The Vineyard Church would like to invite you to an evening of Christian comedy. We are hosting comedian, Shawn Reynolds on Friday, April 24th at 7pm. We are excited to be hosting this event. Shawn has a wonderful show that will appeal to your fellowship. He also toured with Tim Hawkins in 2019. This will be a great night of clean, Christian entertainment, a time to just relax and enjoy yourself. Opening up for Shawn will be Rhonda Cory, winner of the Clean Comedy Challenge. You can find out more about Shawn by googling Shawn Reynolds comedian. We will be selling tickets for this event, \$20 VIP (first three rows center) \$10 general admission. Doors open at 6:30pm and the show starts at 7pm. You can call the church office 614.277.2700 or come in Tuesday – Friday from 9am to 4:30pm to purchase tickets.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please keep knitting and crocheting, and praying from home! For information call Glenda Allman at 614-352-5955 or Diana Imbrock at 614-271-5775.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE BLESSED BY RECEIVING A PRAYER SHAWL?

Please call Nancy Kinman at 614-875-8155.



OWLS – Due to Corona Virus we have not set a date for our next meeting. Stay tuned!

You have an open invitation to join a group of Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS) on the third Friday of each month to share a meal, fellowship and an interesting program. You are guaranteed to laugh a lot, make new friends and catch up with your wiser friends!! No age requirement! Bring a friend and come see what a bunch of OWLS look like in a friendly setting.

Call either Bonnie Swanson (614-562-8002) or the church office (614-875-2314) for information about this fun group



MEXICO MUSINGS



"I cannot change the world, only God can do that. But I can change the world for one person – and that's enough."
-Katie Davis. I didn't go to Mexico to change the world; I went to change the world for one person – to love one person, and in so doing I found myself loved by our One God and my whole world changed. We're not called to do what is easy, or what is comfortable. We are called into chaos, and how incredibly blessed we are to be called there.

The week in Mexico was filled with the face of Jesus. He was in a little boy named Sami who was only two years old and from Venezuela, who fell asleep in my arms like we ourselves are held and rest in the arms of our Savior. Jesus was in his sister Yoli, who welcomed me the first day with a friendly and grace-filled attitude. He was in Jen-ny who wept when camp was over just as Jesus wept when it was time for Him to leave Earth. He was in Santiago, who could recite from memory the Bible verse just ten minutes after hearing it. He was in quiet Jonathan as he danced for joy when we worshipped. He was in the faces of all 24 children as they sang a Spanish prayer of thanksgiving to the tune of our "Johnny Appleseed" table grace. Most of all, He was in my 2 sweet niñas: as Amanda and I danced with bandanas the same way we dance in God's grace; as Katy came and hugged me tight after four days of not talking to me.

In this week of relentless love and pursuit, God taught me so much. He taught me that peace isn't in my circumstances, but in giving it all to God; that the moments I care least about myself and let go of expectations, questions, and doubts and just focus on others, I can feel the peace God promised in Scripture. What's incredible is that God called me into what I saw as chaos to bring me peace. I was able to fully relish in His splendor and grandness. The child-like faith and the simplicity of appreciation in each moment with these kids taught me that only Jesus can change the world; but I can change the world for one person, and Jesus uses this to change my world. As I return home from this mountaintop moment, I'm challenged to make it a mountaintop lifetime: to love recklessly, to let go of what holds me back, and to trust that as God continually calls me into chaos, He is the peace in it all and surrounds me each and every time.

This fall, as I start medical school, I know God isn't calling me to the easy places in the world, but to the darkness and the brokenness. Because in the chaos and the heartbreak, His love wins and I am no longer afraid to live my life saying "yes!" to Him each and every moment.

Kristina Myers



Do you have a heart for the children of Mexico
and sharing the Good News
with our brothers and sisters in Christ?
Sign up to join the Mexico Mission Family 2020!
Mission dates are July 24th through August 3rd, 2020.
Contact Diana Imbrock with questions or to sign up.

BEACONS and QUILTERS NEWS



The Beacons are requesting donated used clothing be taken to the Methodist Church's Purple Door Free Store on Columbus Street. Please donate non-clothing items to any of the charities of your choice.

The Beacons would like, once again, to send a thank you for the anonymous, disposable diaper donations. The diapers are given to the mothers at Choices. Your giving helps the mothers-in-need have an important necessity. Thank you for caring about the babies.

We need your used stamps. Just tear off the stamped corner of the envelopes for three or four months. Put them in a sandwich baggie and place in the Beacons-Quilters cabinet in the Link. The hospitalized veterans thank you.

Faith Missions is always in need of used towels and washcloths. These are about the only used items they will accept because of sorting labor and storage problems with other used items.

Would you like to learn the art of hand quilting? We have chairs and friendship waiting for you. Hand quilting results in an heirloom that future generations will cherish.

The Quilters need twin to king-sized light colored, flat sheets to use as fillers for our quilts. These sheets do not have to be perfect as they will not be seen when the quilts completed.

In the fall, we will start collecting Beanie Babies for the Christmas bags for the children at the LSS food pantry. Now would be a good time to sort through your collection and put aside those you feel you can part with for the Christmas bags. Then in the fall, you will be able to donate your Beanie Babies for the children with a giving heart.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm in rooms 103-104. The Beacons meet with the Quilters on the third Tuesday to trim stamps and card fronts, and help with projects. If you wish to be involved with the making of quilts, you may hand stitch on a quilt, sort fabric, cut squares, arrange the squares into a quilt, sew the squares together, tie the layers together, measure and cut the edges, or sew the bindings and hems. All materials are provided. We eat our packed lunches around 11:30. Coffee is provided. At the Beacons' meeting on the third Tuesday, we take two offerings. One offering is for the food pantries and the other is for the Beacons' general fund. Both offerings help local families.

Lord, please show me how to serve You by helping others. Amen

FUNDRAISING NIGHT!

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Missions St. John's Lutheran Church
Tuesday, April 14th
3pm-10pm

10% Donation Night

Support this cause by presenting this invitation to the listed Texas Roadhouse® location and Texas Roadhouse® will donate 10% of your total food purchases to the fundraiser!

Call AHEAD SEATING (614) 539-7427
4155 Parkway Center Dr



TEXAS ROADHOUSE FUNDRAISER APRIL 14

Support our mission teams to Mexico and Alaska on April 14

Call ahead for carry-out

If dine-in is not available.

We appreciate your support!

And so does Texas Roadhouse!



Summer 2020

YOUTH GROUPS

Adventure Club, grades K – 4, with a special class for 4 and 5 yr. olds, meets Thursdays, 5:45-7:15pm.

Faith Trek, grades 5—6, also meet also on Thursdays, 5:45—7:15pm. \$2 is the suggested donation for dinner on Thursday nights.

Explorers (grades 7—8) and Energizers (grades 9—12) meet on Wednesdays, 7—8:30pm.

IQA High School Bible Study meets on Sundays, 12:30—2:30pm.

**WE DO NOT MEET THE WEEK OF APRIL 6—10.
IT'S HOLY WEEK!**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

meets Thursdays, before Adventure Club, 5—5:30pm, in the sanctuary. It's a great program. Connect with Karl Eiginger for more information at 817-709-5604.

DID YOU KNOW?

We were blessed this past month with visitors from NALC churches from Ohio, Indiana, and Texas who wanted to learn more about faith webbing and outcome-based youth ministry. It is always a joy to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are "loving kids into the kingdom," just like we are!



These young people, grades 3—6, made the Lenten Bible Project happen: Corban Allman, Ben Previts, Colton Thompson, Hunter Thompson, Brooklyn Cress, Layla Greer, Dylan Allman, Brayden Gottshall, Jacob Allmon,

Jake Westerfeld, Merrick Wilson, and Matthew Little. They wrote articles for the bulletin and Eagle, made tri-fold signs, updated tri-fold signs weekly, prepared the giving envelopes, weekly checked on envelopes, created signs for the church and put them up, and made announcements in church, to classes, and on our facebook page....and this month they will purchase bibles and deliver them to the bed brigade. *Wow!*

- Academy at Heartland, June 1-4
- Camp Faith at LMC, June 19–21
- Faith in Action at St. John's, June 29—July 1
- Vacation Bible School at St. John's, July 6—10



Registration deadline for all camps is April 15th.

Contact Laurie Pecuch at lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org for questions and more details!



**RE-NEW OR
JOIN IN APRIL!**

Every April the **Kroger Community Rewards Program** requires you to re-enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. The number for St. John's is EY530. If you need help, talk to Laurie.

The Kroger Community Rewards Program is easy to join. It costs you nothing! And every time you shop, the youth at St. John's benefit!

SUPPORT THE YOUTH

Another way to help support the youth ministries at St. John's is to purchase **Scrip gift cards**. Scrip orders are placed on the first Tuesday of the month and orders arrive within the week.

Or you can **order SCRIP on-line!** Talk to Pam Wittenberg at 614-579-7285 on how to order on-line and/or put more monies on an existing SCRIP card.

Link your **Amazon orders** to St. John's. The church will receive .05% of what you order on selected Amazon items.

Give to the **YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND!** Talk to Gary about details.



LENT AND EASTER

- April 1 Wednesday Lenten Service 6:15pm
"Holden Evening Prayer" through Facebook or
www.stjohnsgc.org.
- April 5 Palm Sunday "The Cry of the Whole Congregation"
Through Facebook or www.stjohnsgc.org
- April 8 Maundy Thursday Service TBD
- April 9 Good Friday Service TBD
- April 11 Sit-down Communion Service TBD
Easter Service TBD
- April 12 Easter Services - TBD

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY THEME: "A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT"

Watch on St. John's Facebook page Wednesdays at 6:15pm.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

In this holy season of Lent, we ask God to align our spirit with His desires for us, our families, our church, our communities, and our world. This alignment takes the form of certain attitudes that are not naturally part of our personalities. In Lent, we ask God to plant these attitudes deep within our hearts. As they are nurtured in the community of faith through worship, prayer, service, and study, these attitudes begin to take root and grow—not perfectly, but steadily. Lent calls us to think, decide, and act out of these desires that make up our new nature as baptized believers who are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with Christ's cross forever. Join us on Wednesdays at 12 noon and 6:15pm.

- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 "The Spirit of Repentance"
- Wednesday, March 4 "The Spirit of Truth"
- Wednesday, March 11 "The Spirit of Trust"
- Wednesday, March 18 "The Spirit of Perseverance"
- Wednesday, March 25 "The Spirit of Humility"
- Wednesday, April 1 "The Spirit of Power"
- Maundy Thursday, April 9 "The Spirit of Community"



The Easter Promise

I awake and thank God for his grace,
For giving us Christ as an abiding place;
For Christ who shows us the way
And searches for us when we go astray;
For Christ who carries all our sorrows,
Who assures us of a new tomorrow;
For Christ in whom we live and breath,
Who all our fears and sorrows relieve;
For life that is secure in a home above,
For the Easter promise of His love.

Ada Weygandt

It's Spring!

God's sun warming the earth,
Winging birdsong in a sky serenade,
Blooming forsythia and budding tree;
For such was this day made,
It's Spring!

For each morning anew,
Each petal shimmering with dew,
For each sweet bouquet of love
Wafted from the heart of God above;
For such was this day made,
It's Spring!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Seth Jersild, Senior Pastor sjersild@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314 217-255-2118
Patricia A. Morlock, Assoc. Pastor pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314 740-405-1548
Dirk Ahlgrim, Sat. Night Organist	614-875-2314
Tim Allman, Sunday School Superintendent	614-875-2314
Elaine Bennett, Dir. of Lay Ministries elaine.bennett@stjohnsgc.org	614-446-0148
Michael Esposito, Business Manager mesposito@stjohnsgc.org	614- 875-2256
Karl Eiginger, Children's Choir Director	614-875-2314
Nick Grossman, Contemporary Worship Leader	614-875-2314
Diana Imbrock, Youth Director grades 7-12 dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org	614-271-5775
Doug Jones, Custodian	614-875-2314
Susan Abbott Locey, Bell Choir Director	614-208-8215
Janice Miller, Recorder jmiller@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Gary Pecuch, Youth Ministry Coord./Confirmation gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org	614-620-2659
Laurie Pecuch, Youth Director grades K-12 lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org	614-620-2669
John Schuder, Minister of Music jfs4wd@sbcglobal.net	614-254-3310
David Shrum, Contemporary Music Leader	614-875-2314
Karen Whyte, Librarian barnowl@iwaynet.net	614-878-9392

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers: Neva Warren, President; Kevin Stenson, Vice President; Melissa Butsko, Secretary; Dan Yeater, Treasurer.

Members-At-Large: Debbie Abbitt, Fred Previts, Aaron Clark, Cindy Henricksen, Warren Althoff, Jeff Dardinger, Richard Werner; Sheila Boneske.

Church Office hours are Monday through Friday,
8am to 4pm.

**The deadline for the MAY Eagle
is April 10th.**

Email announcements & articles to
sj@stjohnsgc.org or leave a handwritten copy in
the church office.



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Kay Turner who died on Feb. 22, 2020
Deborah Burger who died on Feb. 26, 2020
All who mourn are in our prayers.



Congratulations to the following families whose children were baptized at the 11am traditional service on March 1st: Gabriella Ann Althoff, daughter of Tim and Jill Althoff; and Jackson Jump and Elaine Jump, son and daughter of Andrew and Abby Jump.; and at the 11am traditional service on March 8th: Mason Steven Stith, son of Evan and Kate Stith.

NOTES OF THANKS:

"Thank you for the cards and words of consolation received at the passing of my brother, Richard Johnston." -*Ralph Johnston*



"Thank you to my St. John's family for the beautiful cards, prayers and delicious food which I received while recovering from my recent reverse shoulder surgery." -*Dellno Lewis*

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF MARCH 15, 2020

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Craig Sonnen** by Connie and the Sonnen Family.

Organ Debt Reduction Fund

Given in memory of **Richard Johnston** by Beth Katterhenrich; and Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Given in memory of **Janet Smith** by Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Given in memory of **Kay Turner** by Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Youth Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Annette Rush** by Margie Kennell.

Youth Fund, Lenten Bible Project

Given in memory of **Judy Hayes** by JoAnn Allwine.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After much discussion and prayer, our pastors and church council have made the difficult decision to cancel worship services and all group church activities at St. John's Lutheran Church until further notice. In order to protect those in our congregation and community who are vulnerable to the dangers posed by the *covid-19* virus, the church building will be on strict lock-down during this period. As we continually monitor the situation, we will keep you informed as to our next steps.

We are so sorry to have to do this! Particularly during times of anxiety and disruption like this, it is such a great gift to be surrounded by the love and support of our church family. It hurts not to be able to meet together. However, your church staff will do their best to offer online church experiences during this period; and we will respond to e-mails and telephone messages.

Please go to either of the following two websites and follow the links to the special worship items, sermons, and study materials we'll be offering over the next several weeks:

Our Church Website: www.stjohnsgc.org **Our Church Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/stjohnsgrovecity/

Pastor Patti and I will be making regular phone calls and praying for those in our congregation who are dealing with health issues, and making visits wherever possible. Please call the church (614-875-2314) and let us know if you are ill and/or hospitalized, and we will be in touch.

Our other great concern at this time is with our church offerings. This quarantine is going to have a serious impact on many people's financial situation, and the last thing we want is to lay an extra burden on anyone. I only encourage all to support the ongoing ministry of St. John's as they are able, through consistent offerings so that we can avoid a crisis "dip" in support during these weeks without worship services. As always, you can mail offerings directly to church (3220 Columbus St., Grove City), or give online via the Church Website (address above).

Finally, please know that your pastors, staff, and church council members are praying for you. Though we cannot meet with each other for the next several weeks, we are here for you at all times. Please call us with your prayer requests and concerns. And please keep our congregation, our nation, and the world in your prayers, that all will know Christ's peace, protection, and guidance as we face this crisis.

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Seth J. Jersild

Pastor Patti Morlock

Neva Warren, on Behalf of the Church Council of St. John's Lutheran Church

***DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION will be held
on Sunday mornings from 10:30am to
11:30am.***

PANDEMIC

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sab-
bath—

the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.



Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar

*"For I am the **Lord** your **God** who takes hold of your right
hand and says to you 'Do not fear; I will help you.'"
Isaiah 41:13*



The Eagle

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www.stjohnsgc.org

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio
614/875-2314*

Dear Disciples of Jesus,

We are celebrating the greatest miracle of all time – the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. There's so much about this story, that every year, I think, if I only had a few hours to preach (I KNOW, I hear the groans...).

Here's what has been on my mind since Easter – it's those women – and that rock in front of the tomb. Surely, they knew when they set out that the stone would be too heavy for them to manage. But here's the thing – they went with their spices to anoint the body of Jesus anyway. They went in spite of a rock that they themselves couldn't move.

This my brothers and sisters is what faith is all about. These women so loved their Lord, whose body they were going to anoint, that not even a seemingly insurmountable obstacle like an unmovable stone was about to stop them.

These were women who had followed and believed in Jesus during his life, and now they wanted to express that faith in his death. And for them, faith meant trusting, not in their own abilities to do the impossible and move the stone, but to trust in God for whom nothing was impossible.

Faith – it's what allowed those women to go to the tomb in the first place on Easter morning, it's what allowed them to believe His promises, even when all hope seemed gone. Faith is what drew them toward Jesus.

And here's the other miracle of Easter – the STONE was rolled away! The obstacle was removed! Not only has Jesus been raised from the dead just as He said, but the answer to the women's question "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" was already anticipated before they spoke it. And God himself was there to meet them!

My friends, this is the good news that comes to greet us as we face each day anew. Easter is not merely a story we remember, but a miracle lived anew each day. Jesus Christ, who died, is now alive. You and I, as the Body of Christ, believe the resurrection miracle is central, no, critical, to who we are as Disciples of Jesus. The entire mission of this Church is dependent upon acting as those who believe the miracle!

Ours is a God who rolls away the stones of doubt and uncertainty that block the path to seeing the miracle of His life that lies right before us. He is as alive today as he was that first Easter morning.

The miracle of his resurrection proclaims forgiveness of sin for all and victory over the power of death.

As the Body of Christ, we are to proclaim this most excellent news to those who have yet to know it. We are to live as those who believe – Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Looking Forward in Faith.

Pastor Patti