



The Eagle

May 2020

www.stjohnsgc.org

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This has been a disorienting and stressful time for many of us. We haven't been able to gather in groups. It can make us feel isolated and alone. Many of us are worried about the financial impact this quarantine will have on our families and our country. Some of us are already hurting badly. And, of course, we are painfully concerned about the health of our loved ones in the middle of this very serious pandemic.

In the middle of all this, I want to share with you what I've been seeing in our St. John's church family: the power of Jesus' resurrection from death. I can't tell you how beautiful it is to see the people of our congregation responding in Christ-like ways to this situation. Within a week of cancelling regular church services, a large group of enthusiastic, loving St. John's volunteers was in place making regular calls on our most vulnerable and homebound members. People have been faithfully seeking new ways to serve. Large numbers have been tuning in to our online worship services, and more than 200 people each week have been joining the line of cars in the church parking lot to receive communion and a blessing in these special circumstances. We continue to connect with our youth and offer educational materials online. Our praise offerings and Christian outreach continue to lift up people in need. In all of this, we can see how the power of Jesus' resurrection has bound this church family together in powerful bonds of grace and love, and has made us people who will never be ruled by fear.

We might not have much of a sense of God's plan in all this right now; but as followers of Jesus, we certainly know God is good, and we know where to turn in our frustration and stress. Where much of the world might see *only* the negatives in this situation, we Christians see an opportunity to be faithful. This is one of those times when we can intentionally lean in to Jesus. Here's a chance to delve into God's Word. Let's get our Bibles out. Maybe this is an opportunity for us to start new faith practices with our children, praying and talking about God's Word openly with them. Maybe this is a perfect time to tune out the devil's polarizing talk which can be so addicting, and to train ourselves to think and see things from a new perspective, like Paul encourages us to do: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

Above all, we can remember that God is in charge. We can leave the big picture in his hands and concentrate on seeking and doing God's will in the small things.

Remember, you are not alone. Our Father knows your every need. Continue to pray for one another. Let us know your needs and concerns; your church is here for you! I'm looking forward to the day when we can all meet together again.

God's Peace,
Pastor Seth Jersild

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
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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 Darding, Richard Werner; Sheila Boneske.

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

**The deadline for the JUNE Eagle
is May 10th.**

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

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION
*continue to be held on Sun-
day mornings from 10:30am
to 11:30am until we are able
to meet again.*



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Scott and Dee Harlor on the death of Scott's mother,
Audrey on March 21st.

The family and friends of Ruth Ranke who died on March
27th.

Pastor Larry and Sandy Kudart on the death of their son,
John, on April 14th

All who mourn are in our prayers.

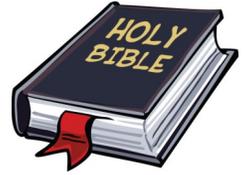


CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jim and Carol Rorick whose first grandchild, Ned Andrew Rorick, son of Mitch and Laura Rorick, was born on March 21st.

Lennie and Lyndsey Solomon on the birth of their new baby girl, Luna, who was born on March 20th. Luna is welcomed by siblings Allie and Brielle.

LENTEN BIBLE PROJECT: "Thank you St. John's family for all you did for our Lenten Bible Project. With your help and prayers we were able to raise \$2,173. We met and surpassed our goal. We are excited to deliver bibles to bed brigade once it gets up and running again. With your help we will be able to put Jesus' word into other people's hands that need it during this time. Thank you again for supporting us. Love Brooklyn Cress and The Lenten Bible Project Team"



Dear Congregation of St. Johns: Thank you for your generous donation, every dollar will help buy a bible for bed brigade. I am sure that every kid will be blessed and will be able to learn about God. They will greatly appreciate it so THANK YOU!!!! Sincerely, Brayden Gottshall

NOTES OF THANKS:



"I want to thank the Chapel Class, Promise Keepers and others for their prayers and well wishes during my health problems in November and December of last year. I also want to thank Pastor Patti for her precious visit on the morning of my surgery. What a blessing for me-a sinner! – Jim Jones

"I want to thank Pastor Patti for her hospital visit and praying with me for my surgery and recover. I know that the COVID 19 restrictions at the hospital made it a problem for you getting in. Thank You! I was humbled by the out pouring of Christian Love from the Pastor and so many members of St John's after my hospital stay and surgery. Sooo many cards and get well wishes, to many to count—thanks to everyone one, God's grace was with me because of your prayers. Your friendship is very meaningful experience." –Mel Penrod

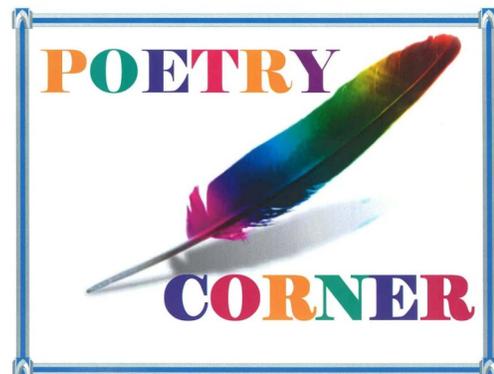


WHAT IS MOTHERHOOD

What is Motherhood filled with love
 For a special girl or boy,
 Created by God, that knows both sadness and joy!
 From days of teething rings and romping upon our knee,
 To finger painting and playtime in the nursery;
 From days of schoolbooks, teenage crushes and football games,
 To graduation, best friends and high-school proms;
 To days of growing-up to love and marriage,
 To changing diapers and pushing a baby carriage;
 To hopes of careers and dreams of success,
 Awaking to the knowledge that some must settle for less.
 We mothers watch as we work and wait and kneel in prayer,
 Bravely smiling thru the tears because we care.
 I've no answer for this paradox of love,
 But, perhaps, someday the Lord above will
 Tell us why we had to both laugh and cry
 When we rise to meet our children on high.
 -Ada Weygandt

MOTHER DEAR

*We love and thank God for you, Mother dear,
 And we will always want and need you near.
 From the days of rocking babies, humming low.
 To days it seemed all you said was, "No, No!"
 To days of teenagers and giving advice.
 While making many a sacrifice,
 To the days the children wed,
 And you discreetly dabbed the tears you shed...
 Thru a veil of misty tears,
 We've seen your devotion thru the years,
 And with hearts full of love, we give you honor and
 praise.
 God Bless you, Mother dear for all of your days!
 -Ada Weygandt*



YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUPS are meeting weekly through a virtual meeting app call **GoToMeeting**. Text Laurie at 614-620-2669 to get your GoToMeeting id # for Children's Connection, Explorers, Energizers, Confirmation Sunday School, High School Sunday School, and High School IQA! *We hope you can join us! It's always great to see you! Diana, Laurie, and Gary*

PARENTS OF 6TH GRADERS: It's time to start thinking about confirmation for your son or daughter. Confirmation begins in August of a student's 7th grade year. If you plan on your son or daughter joining the catechism program, please get your email address to Gary Pecuch. He has some "save-the-date" information for you. His email is gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE LUTHERAN COLLEGE TUITION GRANT for fall semester should be filed by May 15th with the church office. If you're a member of St. John's and attending a Lutheran affiliated school then your school likely offers a matching grant up to \$500. Get your application from the church office.



The Grad Sunday Celebration for upcoming high school seniors is going to be moved to a later date when we can all come to church and celebrate and pray over our high school seniors! We are so proud of the class of 2020! Looking forward to blessing them as soon as we can!

If you would like to recognize your *post-high graduate*, from a school of higher learning, in an upcoming news note (bulletin, Eagle), please send the following information to Diana Imbrock at dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org: student's name, name of school, degree and major.

Every April, we are asked to reconnect to the Kroger Community Rewards Program. You can also join today! Once connected, every time you shop at Krogers and show your Kroger Plus card for discounts, Krogers gives back to the community! It costs you nothing and your St. John's youth program benefits. You can reconnect your card to St. John's (or join the program) at <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. **St. John's code number for the Kroger Rewards Program is EY530.**



SCRIP GIFT CARD UPDATE: During our stay-at-home we will **not** be ordering physical cards from SCRIP. **But you can order SCRIP on-line!** *Talk to Pam Wittenberg or Gary Pecuch on how to order on-line and/or put more monies on an existing SCRIP card.* The first Tuesday of the month that we're not on a stay-at-home order, we will be back on for ordering physical SCRIP CARDS. In the meantime, consider ordering SCRIP on-line!

Use AmazonSmile and they will give back .05% of your order to St. John's! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. When you use AmazonSmile, the church will receive .05% of what you order on selected Amazon items. Start shopping at smile.amazon.com and link up to St. John's. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to select a charitable organization from a list of eligible organizations. We are listed as: **St Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church**. Contact Gary at gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org if you need assistance in linking your Amazon orders to St. John's. *Thank you!*



MEXICO MUSINGS



A new camp, new niños, a new mission family...but the same God. With this trip came a lot of change from my last experiences, but even more familiarity with how the Lord moves. This year our niños were from an orphanage in Tijuana called The Refuge, and we got the opportunity to be in relationship with 24 little ones. The girls I got paired with were Cleo, eight years old, and Yolanda (Yolí), ten years old. Cleo started the week timid about her surroundings, but opened up more and more each day. She was an observer – always watching, thinking, and looking for opportunities to serve, even at such a young age. When she smiled, the whole camp seemed as if it got brighter! My favorite memory with her would be hearing her contagious laughter as she, Karl, and I, and a younger niña named Jackie all attempted to teeter-totter together. Nothing was better to her in that moment than flying up in the air and just getting to be a child. We had a similar experience jumping over the waves together at the beach! Cleo reminded me to continuously seek my joy in the simplicity of Christ.

Yolanda was a little more outgoing from the beginning, but had her reservations as well. How do you learn to trust when so many people have left your life? I am forever grateful that she chose to open up to me, because she had no obligation to. We had a great and versatile week together as well, but the thing that stands out to me most about Yolí is her determination. Danya, the niños' leader and mother figure for The Refuge, shared with us one evening that Yolí's dream is to learn English, move to the United States, and start her own church. Yolanda shared this with me the next morning, adding on that before she starts the church, she'd like to own a pizza shop to help fund her ministry. Sounds like an amazing plan to me! As someone who is now vocationally in ministry, I was in awe that God would pair us together, and even more so that a ten-year-old girl had such mature aspirations. Danya also noted that Yolí grew up in Venezuela and had a lot of difficult experiences there, so when she says she wants to do something like this, she's really thought about it and means it. In that moment, I had such a vision of us getting to plant that church together, and was reminded that these relationships aren't for a week, they're for life. Maybe that vision will come true, or maybe we'll never see each other again on earth – what I do know is that He never places someone in our path unintentionally. As He teaches me more and more about consistency in prayer, I will lift Yolí and Cleo up as I lift the name of Jesus – with confident hope that God will water the seeds that have been planted in these young hearts.

Ephesians 5: 1-2 says, "Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a vapor of a sweet fragrance." I am renewed to live with child-like zeal for the Lord, imitating Him just like my sweet girls and sacrificing everything for His glory. All praise be to Him!

Chelsea Smith



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.

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.

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.



The Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors have been following the direction of our governor and our pastors by staying home these past few weeks. The "shelter in place" order has been extended until April 30. We hope and pray that we will be able to come back to church and our friends soon, but until then we hope you stay safe and healthy.

IF THE CHURCH IS OPEN: The OWLS will meet on May 15th and our speaker will be Mayor Ike Stage to give us an update on Grove City. There are a lot of projects in the works and now is your opportunity to come and hear about them.

Please arrive around 11:15 am so we can start our meeting promptly at 11:30 am. Bring a covered dish to share – fried chicken, meatloaf and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there!!

Reservations are a must for this meeting. Please use the salmon insert to make your reservation or call the church office. If you make a reservation and your plans change (even the morning of the event) please call either Bonnie Swanson (614-562-8002) or the church office (614-875-2314). Invite a friend! Hope to see you there!

BEACONS and QUILTERS NEWS



Hopefully, we will be able to meet soon. We always welcome visitors. If you don't want to come weekly, please come just once in a while. You may visit however long you wish. If you want to visit longer, bring your lunch and stay for a couple of hours. We have other activities that do not involve working with fabric. We do stamps for the Wounded Soldier Project and cards for the Cancer Thrift Shop any Tuesday. You may just come, sit for a while and join in the conversations. Your visit is always welcome. Remember, a visit is not a commitment.

Faith Mission, Choices, and Nancy's Place accept only new clothing. It takes much manpower to sort, check for bedbugs, and find storage space for the volume of used clothing they would receive. They do accept used towels and washcloths, though. Please donate your used clothing to the Grove City Methodist "Purple Door" Church Free Store.

The LSS domestic violence shelter, Choices, is blessed to receive frequent anonymous donations of many, many diapers from St. John's members and friends. Your generosity is a blessing to the mothers, and sometimes fathers, experiencing many concerns and worries. Thank you for caring.

We have empty chairs just waiting for you at the quilting frame if you are interested in learning to hand quilt.

The Beacons and Quilters welcome you to come and visit. The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm in rooms 103-104. The Beacons meet with the Quilters on the third Tuesdays, to cut stamps, and help with projects. All materials are provided. We bring a packed lunch. At the Beacons' meeting, we take two offerings to help support our church ministries.

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to interests of others.

Happy Mother's Day

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.

The sale will be on Mother's Day weekend, before and after all worship services, in the Link and North Entrance. If we are on a stay-at-home order, there will be no extra carnations and spring bouquets on sale during this time. Pre-ordered sales will be available for pick-up (likely a drive through in the church parking lot).

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 also email your order to lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org by noon on Sunday, May 3rd.**

You can pick up your pre-ordered flowers on Mother's day weekend, before and after all worship services. If we are on a stay-at-home order, we will contact you about a different form of pick-up. Likely a drive through in the church parking lot.

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 _____ **FLC Link area** 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!***

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297
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