



# The Eagle

[www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org)

July 2020

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

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin coming back together to worship God as a group, I keep realizing just how thirsty I've been to be in the *physical* presence of the Body of Christ these past months. Thank God we've been able to do the online worship services with drive-through communion! The ways we were able to connect on the web and just say a simple "how are you doing?" during the drive-through have been bright spots in the middle of the quarantine. So have the hundreds of phone calls, the online youth activities, and the loving support so many St. John's volunteers have been able to give our more vulnerable members. God never stops pouring out his grace upon us and giving us beautiful glimpses of his kingdom. Those "bright spots" reminded me throughout the quarantine that the resurrection power of Christ will not be contained. Also, the generosity and support for our congregation's ministry that our members have shown through all this has been overwhelming and very humbling. All that being said, though, it became clear to me just how *not the same* it is to communicate through a digital stream rather than face-to-face. The Church of Christ is a living, breathing body, and the Holy Spirit will not tolerate any kinds of barriers between its members for long.

I only feel gratitude to God for how undeservedly blessed I've been through all this. But the darkness has been real, hasn't it? Several church members have shared how they felt like life had become like one of those dreams where you can't quite figure out what's irritating you, and which leaves you feeling unsettled when you get up. And now (I'm writing this on June 17), as we start "waking up," we're faced with what sometimes feels like a powder keg of open conflict, pain and brokenness in our country. It can feel like the devil is pushing a pillow over our faces, trying to stifle us and keep us from getting up. We can be confident he won't succeed.

What's happening right now in places like Seattle has really got me thinking about how fragile any peace we have in this broken world is. The commandments God has given us sinners to preserve some semblance of order, harmony, and freedom among people are under constant threat. We know that real bigotry and horrible unhealed wounds exist out there in our society, and that the raw pain many people are expressing is real. We have also seen that well-meaning (and also not so well-meaning) people can turn the world into a much worse place with their proposed solutions to these problems. Our emotional desire to "pull up all the weeds" overnight is completely understandable, but it can cause a lot of damage to everything that's good (see Matthew 13:24-30). In this broken world, often the best we can do is try to come up with the best trade-offs and temporary balances we can, so that all people can live generally freer and happier lives. But scripture is also clear on this: As forgiven sinners, we are free to work constantly for a *better* world where everyone stands equally under the law while actively resisting the devil's strategies to cause more pain, division, and chaos. We're called to be engaged with the world no matter how ugly it gets, to be in fearless and gracious conversation with anyone who may differ from us, to be compassionate and generous towards those who are hurting, and to refrain from self-righteous pretense. Most importantly of all, we are called to proclaim Jesus Christ as the final and only hope of the world.

Now it's time to get up in the power of the Holy Spirit, to shake of any kind of spiritual grogginess, and to remind the devil with our words and actions that his time is running out. I'm excited to join with you all again in corporate worship, in the study of God's Word, and in fearless service to this broken world that God loves. Let's move forward now towards our final victory in Christ. Thank you, brothers and sisters at St. John's, for your love and faithfulness.

In His Peace,  
**Pastor Seth**

## 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 Min. 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 Stener-son, 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 AUGUST Eagle  
is July 10th.**

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

### **WORSHIP TIMES:**

**Saturday at 6pm**

**Sunday at 8am, 9:30am, 11am**

**Contemporary-Sunday at 11am  
(Social Distancing will be prac-  
ticed and face coverings are rec-  
ommended.)**

**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION contin-  
ues to be held on Sunday morn-  
ings from 12:15pm to 1:00pm.**



### **OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:**

Paula Ames and family on the death of her daughter,  
Jenny Ames, on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Carol Rich and family on the death of her husband,  
Jim Rich, on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Family and friends of Ada Weygandt who died on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Rita Murray whose sister, Rosie Richardson, died in Hurri-  
cane, West Virginia.

Christine Snashall and family on the passing of her father,  
Roy Green, on June 11.

*All who mourn are in our prayers.*

### **MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED THROUGH JUNE 14, 2020**

#### **Memorial Fund**

Given in memory of **Jim Rich** by Ike and Shelah Stage.;  
Marilyn Wright; and Erle and Judy Taylor.

Given in memory of **Ada Weygandt** by Ralph and Karol  
Cataldo; Elaine Cappa; James and Nannette Bobb; and  
Susan McGarvey.

Given in memory of **Craig Sonnen** on our anniversary, by  
Connie Sonnen.

#### **Organ and Renovations Debt Reduction**

Given in honor of **Nancy Kinman** by Gary and Cynthia  
Kinman.

Give in memory of **Jenny Ames** by Beth Katterhenrich.

Given in memory of **Ada Weygandt** by JoAnne Keller.

#### **Bed Brigade Fund**

Given in memory of **Jim Rich** by Keith and Jane Stener-  
son.

#### **Memorial Fund, Music, & Youth**

Given in memory of Jim Rich by Paul and Mitzi  
Schemrich, Dan and Amie Allman and boys, Joe and  
Mindy Schemrich and girls, and Addison and Ashley  
Kleoudis.

#### **Current Fund**

Given in memory of **Craig Sonnen** by Connie and his en-  
tire family.



## LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Outreach, Benevolence, Missions—whatever you want to call it, your weekly offerings support many ministries to individuals, the community, and the global community.

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio meets needs on many levels. Their mission is “Creating a better world, by serving people in need. Food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs of all people. Due to unforeseen circumstances, sometimes people are unable to obtain these basic needs. That’s why Lutheran Social Services (LSS) offers a continuum of services to lend a helping hand. Through our programs, we reach 27 counties in Ohio with select services offered statewide. From single adults to extended families, our mission is to create a better world by serving people in need.”

“Lutheran Social Services (LSS) serves thousands of people in need each day in 27 Ohio counties by addressing the four core societal issues of food, shelter, safety and healing. LSS offers food through the LSS Food Pantries, housing and supportive services through LSS Faith Mission and LSS Faith Mission of Fairfield County homeless shelters, domestic violence services through LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, senior living and health care, affordable housing communities, and other services that uplift families and strengthen communities.”

To learn more about LSS and it’s impact on our community go to [lssnetworkofhope.org](http://lssnetworkofhope.org).

### NOTES OF THANKS:



Thank you everyone who participated in the notes for kids. We collected close to 1,000 notes. Eighty eight students received special recognition. The kids loved it. If you want to see pictures from that day, you can go to the church page on facebook. Thank you, Brooklyn

Carol Rich would like to thank everyone for their cards, visits, and expressions of sympathy upon the passing of her husband, Jim. Your kindness and concern have been appreciated by the entire

### 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.

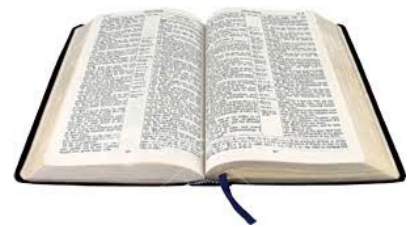
### LAY READERS WILL BE NEEDED FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER.

Please sign up on the lists in the north entrance  
(when we are able to meet again).

Be sure to include your contact number.

Thank you for serving in this ministry at St John's.

Contact Jo Dimond if you have any questions (614)270-3291.



### ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Lord, on this day of Independence,  
“drums and parades”

We pray for wars to cease and peace  
increase;

We pay tribute to the brave patriots  
Who fought so valiantly for our country,  
And we salute with pride their valor.

Lord, our light in darkness  
And only sure defense in distress,  
Lead us to freedom’s shore  
Where peace shall reign evermore!

-Ada Weygandt



Ada Weygandt passed away on June 6th. She has celebrated her own “independence day”. We have been blessed by her poetry over the years.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

On the 4th of July,  
As we raise the nation’s flag from  
sun-up to sun-down

May our banner flying high  
Always be respected and signify  
A people living free, loving liberty,  
Sadly, we remember the cost

In lives given,  
And all the souls departed to heaven.  
Trusting in the Lord, we pray,  
“Bless our beloved USA  
on Independence Day”

-Ada Weygandt

## YOUTH NEWS

**CONNEX!** (Wiktionary: connex(Verb) To connect; to become joined or united.) Youth Groups are officially over but we would still like to connex with you! Middle School CONNEX starts at 7pm on Wednesday nights. Text Gary at 614-620-2659 for the Zoom Id Number and Password. High School CONNEX starts at 7pm on Thursday nights. Text Laurie at 614-620-2669 or the Zoom Id Number and Password. It's informal and fun! **Please note that we will be taking July 8 and July 9 off.**



**SUMMER FAMILY FAITH BOX:** We created a box of devotions, hands-on activities, family fun, and faith sharing that a family can do at their own leisure and pace. You can even get a box to give to your neighbor! We are praying for your family and your time together! We hope you enjoyed your June box! Your July box will be delivered between June 29 and July 3.

If you're not currently on our rsvp list to receive a box but would like to, feel free to contact Laurie at [lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org) or Diana at [dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org).

**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 at [gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org).

**Thank you everyone who has collected lids and bottle caps for 4H!** Sadly, 4H has stopped collecting these. You can still recycle all lids though! I greatly appreciate everyone who helped collect the lids and caps. Thank you everyone, Brooklyn Michelle Cress

**Thank you for connecting to the Kroger Community Rewards Program.** If you haven't done so, you still can! Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. Our code number is EY530.



**SCRIP GIFT CARD:** Talk to Pam Wittenberg or Gary Pecuch on how to order on-line and/or put more monies on an existing SCRIP card. Please let us know if you order on-line, as we need to release your order, by emailing Gary at [gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org). We are back to placing orders for physical cards the first Tuesday of the month. *Thanks for your support!*

**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](https://smile.amazon.com) and link up to St. John's. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://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](mailto:gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org) if you need assistance in linking your Amazon orders to St. John's. *Thank you!*





# MEXICO MUSINGS



Going on this Mexico Mission trip was one of the greatest privileges of my life. It was truly a blessing to be God's hands and feet for a short week. I was an "amigo" and blessed with three "niños": Santos, Brallan (Brian), and Jonathan.

Santos was a 12 year old kid from a very rough area of Tijuana. He had a very tough personality and walked around with a lot of confidence. It was clear he was heavily influenced by the gangs in Tijuana. His caretaker, Danya, told me that he didn't believe in God, he would just participate in prayers and read scripture so he could learn more about life. I was really worried that he was going to be difficult to connect with, but all it took was a few hours before I realized that beneath his rough exterior he was still just a kid. In the afternoon on Monday, he and I started to toss the football. He was struggling with throwing it straight so I paused, and taught him where to put his fingers on the laces and throw a spiral. Immediately after that his first throw to me was a perfect spiral and he lit up with joy.

We continued to throw and had a blast with each other. Later that night, during the campfire, he said that us throwing the football was his favorite part of the day. From that point on he and I were friends and he really started to open up as the week progressed.

It was so amazing seeing God work through Santos during this camp. To see him get up and sing songs about Jesus Christ being his superhero, to being one of the first ones to memorize the Bible verse of the week. I loved watching him have an opportunity to finally be a child. He loved making rubber band bracelets; by the end of the week he probably had 15 of them going all the way up his arm. He also really liked playing soccer and going to the ocean. He was fearless when he ran into the surf. I was so touched to see this tough kid from the streets of Tijuana who didn't believe in God, transform into a carefree, singing and dancing boy having the time of his life at church camp. I pray for him that God continues to work within him and he becomes a believer. I feel so honored that I was chosen by God to play a small part in Santos' faith journey.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" James 1:17

¡Gloria a Dios!  
Nick Butsko



Although our Mexico Mission has been cancelled this year, we are grateful for your continued support as we prepare for next year's reunion. Feel free to stop by the hallway outside the Youth Office to pray for the children on the photo wall. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Mexico, particularly the most vulnerable, the beautiful children of the orphanages. May God envelop them with His love and care and make His presence known to each through the stirrings of His Spirit. Amen.

Please check out the **Genesis 12 Ministries**' site to see pictures of the precious children and to observe the many ways our partners in the Mexico Mission serve the people of Baja year round.

¡Gloria a Dios!

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.



St. John's Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS) are looking forward to coming back together at their July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. It has been a long time and we hope to see our friends there. However, as Pastor Seth said in his letter to the congregation "We trust that you will exercise good judgment as to whether you personally should be coming back to corporate worship right away. If you have health conditions which render you vulnerable to illness, you should stay safe at home and not expose yourself or anyone else to the risks involved with large public gatherings at this time." Everyone is welcome but we know there are some people who are not comfortable in joining us now but certainly hope they will later. We will miss them.

**WE WILL NOT BE SHARING A MEAL.** We will host Mayor Ike Stage as our speaker at 1:00 PM. Please note time change. He will give us an update on the latest news for Grove City.

We will be following the safety precautions as outlined in Pastor Seth's letter including everyone must wear a mask. We will maintain the 6' social distancing with chairs – no tables.

**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)

## **BEACONS and QUILTERS NEWS**



caring concern.

The Quilters thank the anonymous donor for the sheets for our tie quilts. We can always use more twin to king-sized light colored, flat sheets to use as fillers for the quilts. These sheets do not have to be perfect as they will not be seen when the quilt is completed.

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 Mission, Nancy's Place and Choices cannot accept used clothing because of limited storage space, pest problems, and lack of help in sorting the clothing. Two Grove City places with easy drop-offs are the Grove City Methodist "The Purple Door Church" Free Store and Volunteers of America's Thrift Store. Check with them for open hours.

In the fall, we will start collecting items for the Christmas bags for the children at the LSS food pantry. The school supplies will go on sale this month. The Beacons can always use your donation of Crayola crayons for the children. A good sale price is \$.50 to \$.65 for a box of 24 Crayola crayons. Larger boxes of crayons do not fit in the bags. We can use sturdy combs, pencils, pens, and small plush toys, also.

The Beacons and Quilters will meet again when the church reopens. The Quilters meet most Tuesdays from 9am to 2pm in rooms 103-104. The Beacons meet with the Quilters on the third Tuesday of the month to help with projects. Bring a sack lunch. We especially need individuals who would like to cut 11" squares to start a patchwork quilt. All materials are provided. At the Beacons' meeting, we take monetary offerings for the food pantries and for the Beacons' general fund.

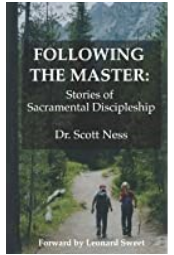
John 15:12- *"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."*

## GARY AND LAURIE RECOMMEND A BOOK!

Pastor Scott Ness wrote a book and it's now available on Amazon! We can't wait to read it! It's called Following the Master: Stories of Sacramental Discipleship. Here's what the back of the book says...

*Following the Master: Stories of Sacramental Discipleship provides a pathway for growing towards Jesus. Jesus used stories to tell of profound truths of what walking in faith looks like. The stories and teachings in this book will:*

- Revive you from the hypnotic drone of religiosity*
- Awaken your awareness to God's movement in your life*
- Help you (re)Discover a love for Scripture*
- Authenticate faith in the midst of relationship with Jesus and His people*
- Set waypoints of discipleship for sacramental Christians*



*This book sets hand and footholds along the journey of life; recognizes and highlights the work of God in the life of the believer; and helps you draw closer in following Jesus.*

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614-875-2314

DATED MATERIALS

July 2020

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**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

Saturdays at 6pm

Sunday Traditions at 8am, 9:30am, 11am

Sunday Contemporary at 11am

and online at

[www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org)

We will practice social distancing and recommend all wear a face covering in the building

*The Eagle*

July 2020