

# NEWS NOTES

November 22, 2020

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(614) 875-2314    www.stjohnsgc.org    email sj@stjohnsgc.org

Senior Pastor Seth Jersild (217)-255-2118 ~ sjersild@stjohnsgc.org

Associate Pastor Patti Morlock (740)-405-1548 ~ pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org



Dr. John Schuder, Minister of Music; Dirk Ahlgrim, Saturday Organist

Susan Abbott Locey, Director of Celebration Ringers

Nick Grossman & David Shrum, Contemporary Worship Leaders

Karl Eiginger, Children's Choir Director

## SERVING TODAY

### Greeters:

8:00am: Volunteer needed

11:00am: ND-Volunteer needed

MD- Wilma Phillips

### Readers:

6:00pm: Chris Jenkins

8:00am: Teresa Orahood

9:30am: Volunteer needed

11:00am: Volunteer needed

### Altar Guild:

Linda Vozel, Dee Harlor, Paul & Pam

Wittenberg

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY.**

**WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!**

*Please take a minute to complete the salmon colored insert (with your own pen or pencil) and place it in the basket or hand it to an usher as you go up to receive communion. If you have any questions or wish to get involved in any of our many ministries, please note that on the insert and we will follow up with you in the coming week.*

## ✪ PERSONAL NOTES ✪

**HOSPITALIZED:** Please pray for members who are or were in the hospital this past week: David Mauch; Ron Funk.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the Lang family on the passing of Tom's father, Ed, on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. All who grieve are in our prayers.

### **DEDICATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** In memory of the birthdays of our mothers, Kathryn Lyday and Beulah Hughes. Given by Richard and Evelyn Lyday.

**PULPIT FLOWERS:** in celebration of the birthday of my father, Armand Arabian. Given by Sarah Schmitz and family.

## ✪ TODAY'S NEWS ✪

Help to slow the spread of the coronavirus.  
Please wear a face covering at all times while in the church building.

*If you are unable to tolerate a facial covering, we ask that you sit in the Overflow and maintain social distancing to protect others.*

*Thank you for respecting these requests.*

Thank you for helping slow the spread



### **CORPORATE WORSHIP SERVICES ON HOLD AT ST. JOHN'S** **STARTING MONDAY NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

We are sorry to announce that due to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases in our county, and following the Special Advisory issued by Franklin County Public Health, we are closing our church building to larger groups (including our corporate worship services) of **Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. We will maintain strictly limited building use at least through Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, which is when the county's stay-at-home advisory period ends. We will let the congregation know before December 18<sup>th</sup> what our plans for reopening will be.

During this period, we will have no in-person worship services at St. John's. Unfortunately, this includes our Thanksgiving service. The building will be accessible for individuals and for small groups (of fewer than 10 people) who have scheduled their meetings with the church office.

At this point, we cannot say for sure whether we'll be able to hold in-person Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services; we're hoping it will be possible and are planning for it! Regardless, we will be organizing a live-streaming worship service for Christmas Eve.

Please remember that we offer online worship videos each week with sermons, prayers and readings at our church website: [www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org). We hope you will tune in on Sundays. We will also continue our Wednesday night online video offerings.

Drive-through communion will continue to be available on Sunday mornings. Please note that **as of November 29<sup>th</sup>, we will switch the Drive-through time to 10:00-10:30 a.m.**

Please pray for the world, our nation, and our congregation during these challenging times. Pastors Seth and Patti are here for you; please call us any time!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:** taking a break until the Covid numbers come down. Watch for updates in the NewsNotes about beginning again.



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thank you for your generous gifts and prayers for the children in need around the world! We delivered 120 shoe boxes and 42 more were built online.

We ask that you continue to pray that God prepares the hearts of these children, that they respond to His love. If you would like to be a Prayer Partner for this ministry, please visit [www.Samaritanspurse.org/PraywithOCC](http://www.Samaritanspurse.org/PraywithOCC). You can join 27,000+ Prayer Partners who pray for Operation Christmas Child year-round.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess 5:16-18*

**ST. JOHN'S IS DEBT FREE** - In November, St. John's was able to make the final payment for the organ and sanctuary renovations we undertook nearly five years ago. Many of our church members made a firm commitment from the outset to regularly contribute to the fund, making our progress towards this goal incredibly fast and consistent. What an amazing accomplishment on the part of our congregation! **Thank you** so much to all of you who have lovingly dedicated your resources to this project, for the glory of God. Our worship and praise to the Lord has been truly enriched by your beautiful generosity



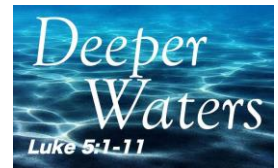
**A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REMEMBRANCE** will not be held this year due to the recent public health advisories. This is a special worship service set aside for family and friends who have had loved ones pass away in the past year; and we plan to combine our 2020 service with our 2021 service. Please see the insert with the names of the deceased and lift their families in prayer during this holiday season.

**OWLS WILL NOT MEET IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.** Watch the News Notes and Eagle for information after the first of the year.

**THE BEACONS' CHRISTMAS BAGS DONATIONS** - The Beacons need your leftover Halloween candy to add to the Christmas bags. The candy will help give a bit of joy to a child. Please place the candy in the Beacons-Quilters' cabinet in the Link. Thank you for showing a child a piece of Christian love.

**GOING DEEPER SMALL GROUPS: NEW STUDY AVAILABLE**

A new study packet: **“Going Deeper with the Ten Commandments,”** is now available for our *Going Deeper* small groups. Hard copy packets are available in the Link, and electronic copies can be downloaded from our church website ([www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org)). If you would like to know more about our Going Deeper small group ministry, or would like to join a small group, please contact Pastor Seth at 217.255.2118 any time. Several of our small groups are meeting online; others are meeting in the church building. If you would like to meet in the church building, please call Jan Miller at 614.875.2314 to reserve a regular room and time slot. We hope you can participate in our “Going Deeper” journey!



**YOUTH NEWS:**

**YOUNGER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- **Ages 3 – Grade 4** your lesson today from your take-home packet is “Sheep and Goats”, Matthew 25:1-46.
- **Grades 5 – 6** have Lesson Eight of the Lord’s Prayer.
- Questions? Connect with Tim Allman at [tim.allman110@gmail.com](mailto:tim.allman110@gmail.com).



**SCRIP gift cards make great Christmas gifts.** Place your order by the first Tuesday of the every month...which will be Dec.1st. Only a few weeks away! Order forms are on the youth office door. Contact Gary Pecuch at [gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org) for details. **There will be no virtual Sunday School meeting (Zoom or GoToMeeting) for confirmation or high school on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. We will start up again the following Sunday, Dec. 6th!**

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Talk to Gary about how you can do this!

**2020 IS A YEAR WE WON'T SOON FORGET!** And while there are many things we are missing and mourning the loss of, we are also embracing some of the opportunities that God has laid in front of us in the midst of these challenges. In many ways, this Advent season is an incredibly important one. We are looking forward expectantly to what God will do through His Word in us, our friends, family, and church! **If you're looking for something creative this season to connect with? We've created a digital Advent calendar! Each day has a short video with the Jesus Storybook Bible, a prayer, or action that can be used with the whole family: <https://adventmyfriend.com/105948/db6fc8702b/> May the peace of Jesus Christ guard your hearts and minds throughout this Advent season! *Jenny Brockman***

## Adopt *a* Family

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY DRIVE** - In the hope of helping to make the holidays a little brighter for some of our fellow members who may be struggling financially, we will be accepting monetary donations during the month of December for our annual holiday Adopt-A-Family drive. Envelopes will be available throughout the church and in the church office. If you or anyone you know of within the congregation would like to be considered for Adopt-A-Family funds, please note that on the salmon insert. The names are kept completely confidential.



**THE MITTEN TREES** - The Mitten Trees in the North Entrance and the Link are filled with many examples of Christian caring, but we're not done yet! Your donations of new mittens, gloves, warm hats, earmuffs, scarves and socks will be gratefully accepted by babies, children and adults. **All items need to be new with tags or homemade.** The trees will be up until December 6th, after which the items will be taken to the LSS Champion Food Pantry, where they will be distributed to anyone in need. Please contact Ellen Previts at 614-345-8576 or Jaylynn Jermann at 614-971-1106 if you have any questions. Thank you for helping our neighbors stay warm!



**Cool Rides for Area Children** - This year we would like to invite you to take part in the annual St. John's Bike Project. In early December, we will be delivering 25 bikes and helmets to needy children in

Central Ohio to make their Christmas great! Give your gift by picking up an envelope at one of the church entrances. Then fill it with the designated amount of cash or check made out to St. John's. Finally drop the envelope in the offering plate or return to the youth office by November 29. You may sponsor a quarter, half or full bike or helmet. Questions: Contact Dylan Allman at [dylanallman07@gmail.com](mailto:dylanallman07@gmail.com) or Diana Imbrock at [dimbrock@stjohnsgc.com](mailto:dimbrock@stjohnsgc.com). Thank you for making an area child's Christmas a little brighter!

**CHRISTMAS DECORATORS NEEDED!** We still plan to put up some holiday decorations – please check with Elaine Bennett (614-446-0148). This year we will be decorating the church for Christmas at 9am on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (the day after Thanksgiving). We have artificial trees that need to be assembled ahead of time (Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>), garland to put up, wreaths to hang, etc. We could use all of the help we can get! If you would be able to give even an hour of your time to help beautify our church and set the mood as we prepare for the birth of our Savior, we would greatly appreciate it. Please mark the salmon insert if you are able to help.



**UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO COVID 19, WE ARE UNABLE TO CHRISTMAS CAROL** to our homebound members this year. Instead, on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, we would like to deliver a poinsettia, a small gift and a homemade Christmas card to our homebound friends. We plan to let them know ahead of time that someone will be leaving some goodies outside their door for them. We will not enter their homes so that we do not put anyone at risk. We are unable to enter nursing homes at this time so we will just be delivering to those who live in a private residence. Everything will be provided. If you would be willing to help deliver some holiday cheer, please mark the salmon insert. We would love to have you join us!



**POINSETTIAS** – we will again be decorating our worship areas with this festive seasonal plant. An order form is included as an insert, is available at the entrances, or on our web page.

**DISINFECTING WIPES** - Thank you to everyone who donated disinfecting wipes! We are well supplied for now.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** devotional booklets for January through March are now available. Please call the church office to reserve a copy (614-875-2314).



**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2021 are now available in the Overflow. If you do not see a box with your name, please write it on the notepad provided, or contact the church office, and a box will be prepared for you. If you are unable to pick up your box and would like for us to deliver it to you, please contact the office at 614-875-2314 or [sl@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:sl@stjohnsgc.org). Online giving is also available. See the “Stewardship” section for details.

## NALC DISASTER RESPONSE NEEDS

WE WILL BE  
COLLECTING BABY  
ITEMS THROUGH THE  
END OF NOVEMBER.

**BABY CARE KIT**

- TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts
- TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers
- TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- TWO** pairs of socks
- ONE** hand towel, any color
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrap
- TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins



**MEN’S BUTTON-DOWN DRESS SHIRTS** (used, but clean) are being collected to make adult “bibs” for nursing home residents. Please bring your donation to the church office by Nov.30<sup>th</sup>. Shirts should be 100% cotton, or a 50/50 cotton blend.

## ☪ STEWARDSHIP ☪

**Attendance:** Nov.15 – 218

<b><u>October 2020</u></b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>	<b><u>Expense</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Operating	\$45,373	\$571,071	\$51,070	\$562,868
Benevolence	\$ 3,961	\$ 55,267	\$ 4,872	\$ 51,454
Debt Reduction	\$ 3,050	\$ 30,018	\$ 2,918	\$ 36,680

**Amount given to Good Samaritan Fund as of 10/31/2020:** \$14,704 with over \$11,000 distributed so far to those in need! **Thank you!**

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIVING  
TO ST. JOHN’S MINISTRIES!**

*Many thanks to all who have signed up for online giving or mailed in their offerings!*

**How to give to St. John’s:**

1. During worship services or drive-thru communion.
2. Mail your offering to the church – 3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio 43123
3. Through your financial institution – they will send a check directly to the church on your behalf.
4. St. John's website – [www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org) – online giving is available through Vanco Services, and we have partnered with them for more than 20 years. It is secure and safe.
5. Through the **GivePlus** app available from Apple or Google – again a partnership between the church and Vanco Services. Set up a profile one time, and set up a recurring gift, or give when you want to. Once your profile is set up, giving is a one-touch process.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*