

# NEWS NOTES

December 20, 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

## PERSONAL NOTES

**HOSPITALIZED:** Please pray for members who are or were in the hospital this past week: Joyce Rawson; Dwight Henricksen.

**THANK YOU:** "Thank you to everyone who made donations to the **Bike Project!** We were able to purchase and assemble 25 bikes and helmets. Special thank you to Butch Myers and Dan Allman for helping deliver the bikes and Diana Imbrock for ordering the bikes. Also, thank you to those who helped assemble bikes-Tim Allman Family, Butsko Family, Little Family, Butch Myers, Paul Patterson, Jeff & Tammy Stenerson, Turner Family, Wahl Family, Wanner Family & White Family. I really enjoyed helping with the service project. Thank you!"  
~ Dylan Allman

## TODAY'S NEWS

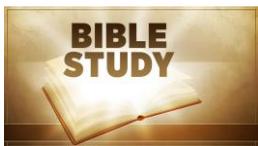
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** will be held in the sanctuary on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm, 6pm, 7:30pm, and 9pm. Reservations are required. Christmas Day service will be held at 10am. See the bulletin insert for more details.

**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.stjohmsgc.org](http://www.stjohmsgc.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!



**IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY AT CHURCH IN DECEMBER: 1 PETER** -

Pastor Seth will be leading a five-week study of the book of 1 Peter at 6:30 p.m. at church (in person) each Wednesday in December. Class will meet in the Family Life Center, starting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We'll wear face-coverings and will have plenty of space in which to spread out and observe social distancing. We hope that all who feel safe to come will join us and enjoy the good discussion and fellowship!



**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 [sj@stjohmsgc.org](mailto:sj@stjohmsgc.org). Online giving is also available.

**OFFERINGS FOR 2020** must be received in the church office by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, or if mailed, be postmarked by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

**NALC DISASTER  
RESPONSE NEEDS**

WE WILL BE  
COLLECTING FLOOD  
BUCKET ITEMS  
THROUGH THE END OF  
DECEMBER.



**☞ YOUTH NEWS ☞**

**FAMILY/PARENT RESOURCE:** If you're a parent, or grandparent, or an adult in a young person's faith web and you're interested in parenting materials and resources in raising youth our youth in today's world, contact Diana at [dimbrock@stjohmsgc.org](mailto:dimbrock@stjohmsgc.org).

**YOUNGER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- **Ages 3 – Grade 4** your lesson today from your take-home packet is “Angels Visit”, Luke 1:26 – 38
- **Grades 5 – 6** have Lesson Two of Apostles’ Creed.
  - Questions? Connect with Tim Allman at [tim.allman110@gmail.com](mailto:tim.allman110@gmail.com).



**Virtual Sunday School Program** - Since we were unable to hold a Sunday School dinner theater this year, some of our youth have put together a video presenting the Christmas story. Please check the website at [www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org) or the St. John's Facebook page to find the video. A special thanks goes out to everyone who recorded or edited to make this video possible.

**WE SPENT THE FALL IDENTIFYING** those in the confirmation group pictures since we arrived in 1982. Of the 950 people in the pictures we are down to five students yet to be identified. If you would be willing to look at the pictures taken in 1983, '85 and '86 please contact us. These would be the High School classes of 1987, '89 and '90. Thank you Gary & Laurie ([gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org)).

## ☞ STEWARDSHIP ☛

**Attendance:** Dec.13 – 118 for Drive-Thru communion

<b>November 2020</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Operating	\$52,619	\$631,493	\$42,821	\$617,001
Benevolence	\$ 6,076	\$ 61,343	\$ 5,062	\$ 56,516
Debt Reduction	\$ 2,097	\$ 32,115	\$ 13,990	\$ 50,670

**Amount given to Good Samaritan Fund as of 11/30/2020:** \$16,019 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.

## Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional Christmas Day— December 25, 2020

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. - Hebrews 1:1-3 –*

When our children were younger, people would always try to figure out which one of us they looked like. Our son, everyone decided, looked like neither his mother nor father, but like his paternal grandfather. Our daughter, however, is the spitting image of me. People take one look at her and say, “She’s your mini-me.” Of course there are differences, we aren’t exactly alike! She is not the “exact imprint” of her mother. We have similar facial features, yes, but when it comes to the things we do, the things we are good at, we are very different. Still, it makes me happy to hear people say how much she looks like me. I take it as a compliment because I think she is beautiful!

When the author of Hebrews wrote that Jesus is the “exact imprint” of God he was talking about more than Jesus being the Father’s mini-me. This theological passage is less about looks (after all, we don’t know what the Father look likes anyway), than it is about character. Character is a Greek word that means “precise representation.” But Jesus is more than that even! He’s not a replica - he is God in the flesh. He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit! In the beginning he was with the Father and the Spirit as the creation came into being.

My grandma, who had dementia, used to say that the dresses in her closet were not hers. They were “cheap imitations,” she would insist. Jesus is not some cheap imitation of the Father. He is the real deal, “Emmanuel” God with us. What we see in Jesus is exactly who God is, nothing more and nothing less. This is helpful for us, especially when we wish to speak to others about Christ. If we want to know who God is and what the nature of his character is, we need only look at Jesus. Jesus once told his disciples, “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” (John 8:19)

Jesus shows us the true nature of God because he is God. Amen.

Sola Worship Resource — Weekly Devotional © 2020, Sola Publishing ([www.solapublishing.com](http://www.solapublishing.com)), written by Amy Little. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.