



The Eagle

www.stjohnsgc.org

February 2021

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio

614/875-2314

Since January 6th, we've been celebrating the season after Epiphany. We start this season remembering the wise men who made their risky journey, traveling long distance to visit the young Jesus and pay him homage (Matthew 2:1-12). The passage reminds us of God's salvific plan—starting with Abraham (Genesis 12)—to gather up all the nations under his loving wing “like a mother hen gathering her chicks” (Matthew 23:37). In the journey of the wise men, we see the beginning of the final ingathering. Now, people of all races, nationalities, languages and cultures will come to worship and praise the God of Israel through Jesus, born in Bethlehem.

During this season, fittingly, the Church focuses on global mission. The wise men followed the star to Jesus' birthplace; now you and I are called to be a light to the nations. Through our words and deeds, we introduce people to the Savior. Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came for all people, not just a few who happened to be born into the right neighborhood, country or family. This is why the Church of Jesus never just stays home, but *goes out* into the world.

We also learn that regardless of our backgrounds, God intends for human beings to be joined with him and with each other in a beautiful family relationship. As believers, we are united not by our political ideas or our national or racial or ethnic heritages, but by His blood. All of our created differences are meant to be positive, complementary bonuses. Only through Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross do we come into this right relationship with God and with each other as forgiven sinners. We come together not necessarily even as “like-minded” people, but as people who share a living relationship with the same Lord, who rules over all with his love and grace.

This past year, it's been especially hard to see God's star shining above the differences that keep human beings at war with each other. Many of our cultural and political leaders are clearly capitalizing on our fears in order to hold on to their fragile power. They are saying that what God intended to be wonderful differences between individuals are actually essential and unchanging power-differences between groups of people. They are thus gaining temporary profits by keeping people in a state of perpetual hatred towards each other.

So yes, it's been challenging to see the light shining above the warring factions recently. But we can remember and rejoice in our identity and our mission as followers of Jesus. While the factions keep trying unsuccessfully and disastrously to come out on top of each other, we've been given final victory *already* in Christ, and act accordingly.

It might be hard to see the light *visibly* shining in the darkness right now, but that's why Epiphany is followed by Ash Wednesday (February 17). The season of Lent reminds us that the light of God's kingdom is something we see only through Jesus' cross. The light of Christ does not always shine *visibly above* the darkness of this world, but even when the light is invisible, faith sees it shining *in* the darkness (John 1:1-5). Lent reminds us of our calling to humbly represent our Savior in this world, being agents of his peace and healing towards our neighbors. Even when it hurts, even when it costs us a lot, it's our privilege and our joy to be his people:

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. (1 Peter 4:12-14)

May God's peace, health, and joy be with you!
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
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Tim Allman, Sunday School Superintendent	614-875-2314
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Nick Grossman, Contemporary Worship Leader	614-875-2314
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Doug Jones, Custodian	614-875-2314
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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 Stenerson, Vice President; Melissa Butsko, Secretary; Dan Yeater, Treasurer.

Members-At-Large: Debbie Abbitt, Fred Previts, Aaron Clark, Cindy Henricksen, Warren Althoff, Richard Werner.

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

**The deadline for the MARCH Eagle
is February 10th.**

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

WEEKLY WORSHIP TIMES:

Saturday at 4pm

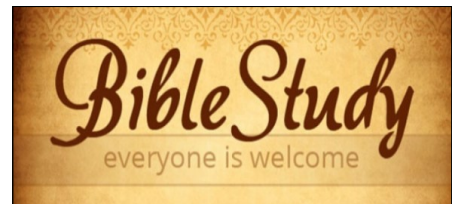
Sunday at 8:15am and 11am

Contemporary-Sunday at 11am
(Social Distancing will be practiced and face coverings are required.)

**Drive-through communion will be held from
12:00-12:15pm**

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: JANUARY 24—FEBRUARY 21

Pastor Seth will be leading a 5-session Bible discussion on **1 John**, starting on Sunday, January 24th. Class will meet in the Family Life Center at 6:30 on Sunday nights. We'll be wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing. All are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship and good discussion!



Our annual coat collection continues! A box will be in the church library for your donations. Please consider donating coats, scarves, gloves and blankets. We will take these to a church-affiliated men's and a women's shelter. Thank you for sharing your Christian beliefs by providing for the less fortunate. ~ Blessings, *Bruce & Karen Whyte*



Due to the high number of Covid-19 infection rates, the OWLS will not meet in February. Watch the bulletins for upcoming meetings and in the meantime—wear your mask, wash your hands, and stay safe!





ALLI FERGUSON confirmed her faith on September 27, 2020. Each student was asked to create a faith tri-fold. Below you'll see some excerpts of what Alli wrote. *May God richly bless Alli in her life with Christ, as she hopes and trusts in Him. Amen!*

My favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 because when my family first moved in together we fought all the time and it felt like we all disliked each other and then eventually we all came together and were a happy family. That shows that "Love is patient, love is kind."

(God-sighting) When I was in the 7th grade I went to Voices in the Grove to see the show choirs perform and I knew God was telling me to join show choir. I ended up having so much fun and made so many new friends. I even got a solo my first year and I'm going to continue doing show choir in high school as a member of Class Act.

My favorite service project was Arts in the Alley because we got to help around and sell pizzas during the day. It gave me the opportunity to have fun with my friend, too. Running around in the pizza hats and carrying signs was fun to do, while we were also making money for the missions at church.



In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: **"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."**

Since then, more than \$160 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

We will be collecting monies (cash and checks) for Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 6th and 7th at all the worship services. There will also be a special collection at drive-through communion on Sunday, Feb. 7th, from noon to 12:15pm.

At a future date, St. John's youth will take your cash donations and purchase food that they will deliver to the Grove City Food Pantry. Checks made out to "St. John's Lutheran" will be deposited and one check will be sent to the LSS Food Pantry. Please note in the check memo: *Souper Bowl of Caring*

Please consider giving to the hungry individuals and families in our community! Thank you! Blake Lang

FAMILY/PARENT RESOURCE



We have discovered a Christian resource for families to help them navigate these challenging times. The resource is called AXIS. It includes parent guides, conversation kits, a culture translator, family reboots, and educational events (summits and 10-day teen talks).

If you're a parent, or grandparent, or an adult in a young person's faith web and you would like to know more about AXIS, please contact Diana, Laurie, or Gary.

There is also an opportunity to get personal access to all the resources that AXIS provides so you can dig into the topics that most interest you right now. Again, contact us! We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for continuing to pray for and support Missions!

We are hoping that we will find ourselves back on the Mexico Mission Field with our precious children the summer of 2021.

If you have a heart for the children of Mexico and sharing the Good News with our brothers and sisters in Christ, come join the 2021 Mexico Mission Family!

Mission dates are July 23rd through August 2nd, 2021.

Contact Diana Imbrock with questions or to sign up.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES!

We have a variety of ways to keep us all connected and growing in faith! Talk to Laurie, Diana, or Gary! If you have questions about any of the materials, please feel free to connect with us!

- **A Family Faith Box** is a box full of fun & faith for the entire family, geared towards ages 5 through 12 but can be adapted for all ages.
- **Individual Sunday School Lessons** (Age 3 through 6th Grade) For more info about Sunday School, connect with our Sunday School Superintendent Tim Allman at tim.allman110@gmail.com.
- **Confirmation Sunday School and High School Sunday School** meet virtually on Sunday mornings, 9:30—10:30am.
- **Youth Group Materials** for Adventure Club (ages 5—4th grade), Faith Trek (grades 5—6), Explorers (grades 7—8), and Energizers (grades 9—12) have been distributed with the Feb/March materials. Virtual meeting id numbers and passwords have been given to each student, along with any materials needed for each virtual meeting. If you can't attend the virtual meeting each week, that's ok. Join us when you can!
- **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY** is on Sundays, 1:30—2:30pm. Talk to Diana Imbrock for study materials and GoToMeeting ID number.

If you did not receive materials but would like to be on our list, talk to Laurie Pecuch at 614-875-2314 or lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org.

CATECHISM

Sunday morning Trot through the Old Testament is happening via virtual meeting. Gary sends out a weekly email to parents. We're learning a lot together!

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

We place orders for gift cards the first Tuesday of the month. Please use the form on the youth office door or just give Laurie or Gary a call at 614-875-2314. Within a week ordered gift cards are back to us and in your hands.

Want to order on-line and/or put more monies on an existing SCRIP card? Please talk to Pam Wittenberg or Gary Pecuch. Anytime you order on-line, please let us know, as we need to release your order. You can email Gary at gpecuch@stjohnsgc.org. *Thanks for your support!*

SCRIP IS HERE!!!

Do you shop at any of retailers?



Transformation Zone July 11-16, 2021 (not an overnight experience)

If you are a high-schooler and interested in serving Jesus, helping area neighbors, and being transformed, have we got a camp for you! Transformation Zone! The cost is only \$125.00 for the week and space is limited. If you are interested, contact Diana Imbrock for more information or give her your \$50.00 deposit to hold your spot. Hurry! Don't be left out!

BEACONS AND QUILTERS NEWS



The Beacons and Quilters are not meeting due to the covid virus. We meet when Franklin county is yellow or orange on the covid map.

Our main ministries in 2021 will be making quilts, preparing used stamps for two veterans' hospitals, and the children's Christmas bags.

We divided most of our small 2020 treasury among Adopt-A-Family, Grove City Food Pantry, LSS Food Pantry, and Bed Brigade.

Please remember Faith Mission, Choices, and Nancy's Place accept only new clothing.

The shelters do not have people to sort the bags of clothing nor places to store it. The shelters do accept children's disposable diapers and used towels. The Beacons request you take your clothing donations to any Grove City charity. The Beacons no longer accept used clothing.

The Quilters have the material and help if you are interested in making a quilt for the Bed Brigade or Franklin County Children's Services at home. Call the church to set up an appointment with a quilter.

We will meet again, sometime in the not-so-far-off future, we hope, every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm in rooms 103-104. The Beacons meet with the Quilters on the third Tuesday to cut stamps, help with projects and attend the monthly meeting. Come, visit and stay as long as you wish. Bring a sack lunch if you are staying during lunchtime. All materials are provided. At the Beacons' meeting, we take monetary offerings for the food pantries and for the Beacons' general fund.

In big ways and small ways, kindness always makes the world a better place. Anonymous

NOTES OF THANKS

"Thank you to all who sent cards and well wishes to me. I have benign essential tremors and am unable to write. I would like to send you all a note but cannot. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." ~Sandy Hayes.

"Thank you so much for the plant and gift bag delivered to my home. So unexpected, and so well done – ...I am truly blessed." ~ Mary Smith.

"I wish to thank the St. John's folks who brought several festive items to my home on December 13. I also appreciate Pastor Patti's well wishes by phone during my recovery from surgery." ~ Pat Walters

"To our St. John's Family: We want to thank you for the many times you have blessed us during the pandemic. God bless each and every one of you." *Love in Christ, Carl and Nancy Kinman.*

"Thank you so much for the gift card for Veteran's Day. We are in Florida now so I always miss the dinner. Again, being remembered on Veteran's Day is very much appreciated." ~ Bob McClure.

Rita Murray wishes to thank everyone for their prayers as she continues to recover from the Covid-19 virus.

"Dear Friends, thank you for the poinsettia and gift bag that was delivered to my home. Have a blessed Christmas." *Marilyn Wright.*

"I would like to extend my sincere thank you for the poinsettia plant and delightful gift bag which were delivered to me on December 13 following my surgery in November. I became emotional and overwhelmed when I received the gift card and adorable ornaments, along with phone calls and cards, and cannot find enough words to express my appreciation. I also want to thank Betty and Dellno Lewis for providing me with communion and bulletins each month, which is always enlightening. I apologize for being a little behind in sending this note of thanks, but being almost 85, I am really slow at everything, so I hope you'll forgive me. My two older daughters have provided excellent, around the clock care of me the first 5 weeks and said now I have graduated a bit where they can leave me on my own more, and I feel so blessed to have had them as my caretakers. Thanks again for everything and I hope to be back again when this covid thing is under control. God bless all at St. John's, be safe, and Happy New Year." ~ Love, Jan Evans.

"Thank you for the lovely poinsettia I received and I wish you all a Merry Christmas." ~ Beulah Leonard.

"I just want to thank St. John's for the wonderful gift and flower, it is so nice to know you are thought of. I really appreciate it and hope everyone has a blessed Christmas." ~ Ruth Emmelhainz.

"I want to thank my St. John's family for so many good wishes, phone call, and cards I received for my 90th birthday. God has blessed me so much and I am truly grateful. May our Loving God watch over each one. Again, thank you." ~Carl Kinman.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Blood is routinely transfused to patients with cancer and other diseases, premature babies, organ transplant recipients and trauma victims, according to the Red Cross. Donors of all blood types are urged to give now to help the American Red Cross maintain the blood supply. Medical conditions and emergencies don't stop for a pandemic or winter weather. No matter your blood type, you're somebody's type. This is the perfect month to make a heartwarming gesture and donate blood.

Blood Drive



Amazon is thanking donors Feb. 1-28 with a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at rcblood.org/together.

St. John's will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, February 9th from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Family Life Center. You can register online at www.redcrossblood.org, using sponsor code StJohnsGC or call 1-800-RedCross (733-2767).

Save time with RapidPass. Complete your pre-donation reading and health history at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or with the Blood Donor App before your appointment.

Questions? Call Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1
Taylor Allman

2
Jack Beck
Donna Kimmins
Jaxon VanOrder
Kathryn Wilkins

3
Kyle Bausch
Addy Evans
Amy O'Day
Ronald Pfeifer
Lenny Solomon

4
Grace Allen
Nancy Brandt
Sandra Colins
Henry Fike

5
Sheryl Fraley
Darby Ruoff
Christie Sonnen

6
Michele Buckingham
Novi Fowler
Annette Heffernan

7
Allen Lipp

8
Jayde Leach

9
Jan Evans
John Gibboney
Maryanne Gibboney
Katelyn Hayes
Kimberly Kauffman
William Kredel
Dellno Lewis
Katlyn Ratcliff

10
Russell Ames

11
Denise Corkwell

12
Cameron Gantz
Grace Nixon

14
Dorothy Cunningham
Marissa Nighbert
Rosemary Turnbull
Richard Werner
Elijah Wilkins
Mason Wilkins

15
Martha Graul
Eleanor Jersild
Laura Peterson
Cheryl Thompson

16
Elizabeth Abbitt
John Gutheil
Vicki Koehler
Seth Stamper

17
Ron Funk
Linda Mahan
Marilyn Miller
Mikey Morris

18
Karen Frabott
Julia Patterson
Thomas Weisenberger

19
Kelly Hammond
Gage Miller
Sue Morrell
Jaxon Starr
Cheri Turner

20
Barbara Hill
Melody Kredel
Dan McMillin

21
Virginia Bent
Dan Czaplicki
Jerrod Hill
Becky Link
Kyle Ratcliff
Larry Sutton

22
Elaine Hamann
Caroline Koethke

23
Julie Haack

24
Elaine Bennett
Beth Katterhenrich
Jordan Wobbrock

25
Kevin Chandler
Abbi Rich
Lydia Shrum

26
Andy McFarland
Rosemary Noble

27
Mike Esposito
Paul Wittenberg

28
Kim Chandler
Beverly Rees





LENT 2021

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17, 2021 with services at noon and 6:15pm.
Wednesday services will continue at noon and 6:15 pm through March 24.

Many Christians around the world give up certain things for the forty days of Lent and doing so can be a very beneficial thing. Our Lenten series this year takes that idea one step further and looks each week at things that God wants us to give up, not just for forty days, but for a lifetime. Join us!

GIVING UP CONTROL: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11—Adam and Eve disobeyed God, thinking that they knew better than him, with disastrous consequences.

GIVING UP EXPECTATIONS: Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17—Abraham followed God's call to leave his homeland and travel to the place God promised his descendants, even though he didn't know how it would all work out.

GIVING UP SUPERIORITY: John 4:5-42—Jesus broke all kinds of social conventions by speaking to a woman in public, a Samaritan no less, whose own life was such a mess that it could have really messed up Jesus' reputation as a holy man to others. If we let go of our status symbols and judgmental attitudes, we too can hear Jesus' call more clearly and respond more faithfully.

GIVING UP ENEMIES: Luke 19:37-44—Loving our enemies can sometimes feel like as idealistic a notion as instantaneous world peace, but Jesus showed us that caring even for those who persecute you is a real, actionable mandate that we can carry out by following Jesus' example.

GIVING UP OUR LIVES: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45—God creates life from death, nothingness, and hopelessness. Embrace God's larger vision of eternal life that begins here and now.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Cathy Howard and family on the death of her son, Robert Howard on
Dec. 21, 2020.

Ravanna Moe and family on the death of her husband, Karl Moe, on
Jan. 15, 2021.

All who mourn are in our thoughts and prayers.



*May God
Grant you Comfort
and Peace*

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED THROUGH JANUARY 17 2021

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **John Hartig, Jr.** by the Hartig Family.
Given in memory of **David Mauch** by Rose Mary Krebs; Cindy Michel;
Barb Armentrout; Judy and Erle Taylor; Carole Cummings; Anna Mae Wiff
and Roy Wiff, Jr. and Family; Ike and Shelah Stage; Suzie Long; Jim and
Carol Rorick; Edward and Carol Jay; Carolyn Tadlock; Annette Utzinger;
and Robert and Bonnie Swanson.

Current Fund

Given in memory of **John Hartig, Jr.** by Rosina Hartig.
Given in memory of **Ruth "Peachy" Washburn** by Suzie Long.

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Ruth "Peachy" Washburn** by Ike and Shelah Stage.
Given in honor of the **50th wedding anniversary of Paul and Andrea Offenburger** by Jim Braskett.
Given in honor of **Beth Katterhenrich** by Jim Braskett.
Given in honor of **Annette Utzinger** by Jim Braskett.
Given in honor of **Pastor Seth Jersild** and **Pastor Patti Morlock** by Jim Braskett.
Given in memory of **Suzie Vernon** by Ed and Glenda Sheets.

Memorial Fund, OWLS

Given in memory of **David Mauch** by Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Bed Brigade Fund

Given in memory of **David Mauch** by Keith and Jane Stenerson; Barry and Nancy Fisher; Wilma Phillips; and
Nancy and Carl Kinman.

Benevolence Fund

Given in celebration of their **50th wedding anniversary by Paul and Andrea Offenburger.**

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

DATED MATERIALS

February 2021

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

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