

NEWS NOTES

February 28, 2021

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

Readers:

4:00pm: Holly Starr

8:15am: Teresa Orahood

11:00am: Ann Jones

Altar Guild

Dellno and Betty Lewis, Lynne Ehrlich,

Rhonda Maynard



✠ PERSONAL NOTES ✠

HOSPITALIZED: Please pray for members who are or were in the hospital this past week:
Jan Singleton.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO: Mike Esposito and family on the passing of
his brother, Vernon Esposito on Feb. 19, 2020.

THANK YOU NOTES: "Thank you so much for thinking of Megan. She appreciates your gifts
and is amazed by the church. ~Doug Knisely.

"Thank you for your outreach and gifts to us." ~Dick and Winnie Young.

“To my church family: I want to thank you for how you cared for me during the past very difficult three months as I lost Dave and suffered thru Covid. For all the cards, the prayers, the flowers, the countless phone calls, the visits and the food – I have felt loved and blessed.”
Yours in Christ, Mary Lou Mauch.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In honor of my son, Paul Wittenberg. Given by Janet Wittenberg

ALTAR FLOWERS: In honor of my brother, Paul Wittenberg. Given by Julie Wittenberg.

BULLETINS: In honor of Paul Wittenberg’s birthday. Given by Pam and family.

☞ TODAY’S NEWS ☛

LENTEN WORSHIP - We will hold in-person services at 12noon and 6:15pm on all Wednesdays through March 24 during the season of Lent.

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION will be held on Sundays from 12 noon to 12:15pm.

GREETERS AND READERS of the scriptures are needed at all services. Please sign up on the sheets posted in the North Entrance.

ALTAR FLOWERS are an ideal way to beautify our worship center and honor a loved one. We presently have openings in the month of April. It is very easy to sponsor the flowers. At the north entrance of the Sanctuary is a "Sign Up" sheet for the Altar flowers. The cost is \$20.00 per vase. Please contact Lesa Corbin (614) 530-4984 for assistance in placing your request.

EASTER LILIES will beautify our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Order forms are available at the church entrances, in the Eagle, and on our website. Please order on or before March 29th.

NEW “GOING DEEPER” SMALL GROUP PACKETS AVAILABLE

New study packets for our small groups will become available on February 21st. You can pick up hard copies in the link at church, or download the packet from our church website (www.stjohnsgc.org).

For this session (Feb. 21st—May 30th), we will be “Going Deeper in the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” focusing on the New Testament books of 1, 2, and 3 John.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved in small groups when possible! If you have any questions about our “Going Deeper” small group ministry at St. Johns, call Pastor Seth at 217-255-2118. We can get you connected with a group.

Pastor Seth would appreciate it if someone in each group could let him know the names of their fellow participants by email or phone (siersild@stjohnsgc.org or 217-255-2118).

Please pray for all who are involved in our “Going Deeper” small group journey!

OUTDOOR FAMILY EASTER EVENT - Please join us on Saturday, March 27th at 10:00 am near the shelter house for an Easter Egg-Stravaganza, Weather Permitting! We are SO excited to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together! Seriously, you DO NOT want to miss this incredible experience. Join us for games, an egg hunt, and the greatest story ever told. **IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE GATHERING AT CHURCH**, we're super bummed– and we know you are, too but we totally understand! You can create the same event in the safety of your own home for your family. ***Please let us know either way by marking the salmon insert if you would like to join us live for this event or if you would like a link to the resources to do this on your own at home.***



EASTER CANDY DONATIONS AND “STUFFERS” NEEDED!

We are asking for donations of individually wrapped candies to fill plastic Easter eggs. There is a marked bin in the link area and for candy donations. If you would like to help fill the Easter eggs, please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 21st at noon in the Family Life Center. A light lunch will be provided. Please mark the salmon insert if you plan to attend. Thank you so much for your support!

PRAYER REQUESTS should be turned in by Monday morning. Fill out the prayer request section on the salmon insert, or contact the church office at 614-875-2314. You may also email your prayer request to sj@stjohnsgc.org. Requests are updated on a weekly basis.

A SECURE DROP SLOT is located under the staff mailboxes in the hallway near the secretary's office. If you are dropping off a monetary gift or papers with confidential information, please put it through the slot to help ensure security.

☯ YOUTH NEWS ☯

AXIS FAMILY/PARENT RESOURCE (month two: social media) was emailed to our rsvp list. 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 our youth in today's world, contact Diana at dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org.

YOUNGER SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **Ages 3 – Grade 4** your lesson today from your take-home packet is “Abraham and Sarah’s Visitors”, Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7.
- **Grades 5 – 6** have Ten Commandment 2.
- Questions? Connect with Tim Allman at tim.allman110@gmail.com.

OLDER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Confirmation “Trot through the Bible” and High School Sunday School meets virtually on Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS! Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to use for your daily purchases or to gift to others! It's easy. It's convenient! 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!*

TACKLING HUNGER! Today I am happy to announce that with your help, we've raised a total of \$1,876.08! That helps a tremendous amount, and is far more than I ever expected. We are happy to announce \$790 of that will go single handedly to the Lutheran Social Service Food Pantries, and the remaining \$1,086.08 will be used to purchase food for the Grove City Food Pantry. I want to thank everyone who helped participate in collecting these monies such as Alice Starr, Jaxon Starr, Holly Starr, Jeremy Butsko, Annaleise Butsko, Erin Wahl, Lauren Wahl, and Tom Lang. With your help, we were able to collect all these monies, so thank you to all who participated. Once again, thank you all for the support through this difficult time, and thank you all for your generous donations. These will truly help those in need! Have a blessed day! *Blake Lang*



☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

Attendance: Ash Wednesday – 104 2/21/2021 – 176

| <u>January 2021</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>Expense</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Operating | \$55,069 | \$55,069 | \$55,209 | \$55,209 |
| Benevolence | \$ 4,566 | \$ 4,566 | \$ 278 | \$ 278 |

Total Amount given to Good Samaritan Fund as of 1/31/2021: \$17,245. Thank you!

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

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 – 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.

☞ CALENDAR ☞

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
11:00am Contemporary Worship (Flc)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
12:00pm Drive-thru Communion
6:00pm Saddles n Such 4H (Flc)

MONDAY, MARCH 1

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (204)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Scrip order deadline

12:30pm OWLS Plng (102)
2:00pm Small Group (102)
6:00pm Cub Scouts (virtual)
7:00pm Boy Scouts (virtual)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

12:00pm Lenten Service (Sanc)
6:15pm Lenten Service (Sanc)
6:45pm Explorers (virtual))
7:45pm Energizers (virtual)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

7:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
5:45pm Adventure Club (virtual)
6:45pm Faith Trek (virtual)
7:00pm Contem. Worship Reh.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

9:30am Bulletin Team (Lib)
8:30pm AA Mtg (Fh)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm A.A Serenity Seekers (103-4)

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
11:00am Contemporary Worship (Flc)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
12:00pm Drive-thru communion

DAILY AND WEEKLY UPDATES ARE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AND
FACEBOOK PAGES.
BE SURE TO CHECK THEM OUT!

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

February 28, 2021

“Jesus asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.”

- Mark 8: 29-30

How does someone go from being an A+ follower of Jesus one minute and just a few verses later fall flat on his face as he insists that Jesus must conform to his expectations of what a Messiah should and should not do? Peter will have to unlearn everything he had been taught and believed about the role of the Messiah, and he will learn it with much difficulty. Nothing about the Messiah happens as Peter expects or wishes. He has trouble learning that victory comes through giving one’s life, not by taking another’s with the sword.

This Gospel text tells us in no uncertain terms what it means to be a disciple. It calls us to examine the many ways we want to correct Jesus’ teaching to suit our own prejudices, especially when it comes to the themes of sacrifice and suffering. Yet Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow him. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in “The Cost of Discipleship,” describes self-denial this way: “To deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self, to see only Him who goes before and no more the road which is too hard for us. Once more, all that self-denial can say is, ‘He leads the way, keep close to him.’”

Self-denial takes shape in many ways. For some, it may mean leaving job and family as the disciples had done. For the proud, it may mean renouncing the desire for status and honor. For the greedy, it may mean renouncing an appetite for wealth. For the complacent, it may mean renouncing the love of ease. The fainthearted will have to let go of their need for security, and the violent surrender their need for revenge. What hinders you from completely giving your life over to God?

Cross-bearing is a whole other matter. It’s at the heart of the Gospel. It refers to self-sacrifice for the Gospel’s sake, even to the point of giving one’s life. It is THIS particular demand that separates the disciple from the admirer. Those who love Jesus for his own sake, bless him in times of trouble as much as when they are full of consolation. May you draw from Jesus the strength and courage to let go and you will find yourself set free to be all God calls from you. Amen.

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