

NEWS NOTES

March 7, 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: *Chris Jenkins*

8:15am: *Betty Lewis*

11:00am: *Volunteer needed*

Altar Guild

Dee Harlor, Linda Vozel, Sarah Schmitz



✠ PERSONAL NOTES ✠

HOSPITALIZED: Please pray for members who are or were in the hospital this past week: Joyce Rawson, Christine Hank.

THANK YOU NOTES: "To everyone at St. John's: Thank you for the 'Stuff the Truck' event and all the help for Texas. The truck and volunteers left Ohio on Tuesday. Thanks again for your prayers and support." ~*Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator*

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In memory of our grandmother with all our love. Given by Sandy Hayes and all her grandchildren who loved her.

LECTERN FLOWERS: In honor of the 64th wedding anniversary of Joan and Richard Werner.

BULLETINS: Given by Ike and Shelah Stage.

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS next weekend. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday March 13th.

SATURDAY EVENING worship time will change from 4pm to 6pm on March 20th.

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

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



CITY BBQ FUNDRAISER to support our mission teams will be held this Tuesday, March 9th. Flyers are available at the church entrances and on our website.

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 are available. 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!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet in-person on March 13th at 9am in rooms 103-4. Contact Glenda Allman with questions at 614-352-5955.

OWLS (OLDER, WISER LUTHERAN SENIORS) WILL MEET ON MARCH 19th AT 1PM

We are doing our best to bring the OWLS together on Friday, March 19th for a couple of hours. We hope you invite and encourage others to come and enjoy the fellowship. Face masks are required and will be available if needed. We will practice safe distancing and do our best to keep everyone safe.

Our speaker is John Hampson representing the Grove City United Methodist Church's Free Store. The Free Store is available to residents in different zip codes and continues to be very successful. Come and hear how it got started, where they are today and how you can help/contribute. It's an interesting story and has provided families in need many times over.

Our OWLS will meet at 1:00 pm for this program and future programs until further notice. Unfortunately, we will not be sharing lunch. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the salmon insert sheet or call Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002

NALC Disaster Response Collection Update

Overwhelming generosity is the phrase that comes to mind as I reflect on what we were able to collect to send to our brothers and sisters in Texas. Despite the soggy day, spirits were high as person after person grabbed a box or a bucket or a case of bottled water to place in the truck. Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator says she will be able take a full 24 ft. trailer and a box truck full of supplies from Ohio when they head out later this week.

Our St. John's collection included:

- Over 100 Bibles
- Over 100 blankets/throws/quilts plus other assorted bedding
- 24 baby blankets
- Several boxes of disposable diapers, wipes, cloth diapers
- Several boxes of baby clothes & care items
- 39 Backpacks full of school supplies
- 60 Health kits
- 32 Flood buckets and assorted supplies to complete additional buckets at the warehouse
- Cases and cases of bottled water
- Almost \$1000 worth of gift cards to buy the supplies needed to rebuild/repair homes

It's very likely that a variety of disasters will occur throughout the United States again this year. Please keep an eye out for sales on disaster response items for clean-up, school supplies, health kits, baby care items, and bottled water. (Please keep them at home for now!)

"The master said, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"
Matthew 25:23.

With Gratitude! Karen Bentley

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 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.

PROJECT UPDATES: Thanks to all who have donated funds to purchase new chairs for the Family Life Center. We have a good start toward 200 chairs. The cost of each one is approximately \$52.00.

☯ YOUTH NEWS ☯

YOUNGER SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **Ages 3 – Grade 4** your lesson today from your take-home packet is “The Ten Commandments”, Exodus 20:1-17.
- **Grades 5 – 6** have Ten Commandment 3.

- 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.

PRE-ORDERED APRIL AND MAY YOUTH MINISTRY MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP Sunday, March 21st through Sunday, March 28th. This includes Sunday School, Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, Energizers, Family Faith Boxes, and IQA bible study. Talk to Laurie, Gary, or Diana for details.

SECOND YEAR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS HAVE AN EVENT AT CHURCH ON SATURDAY, MARCH 13th. See you email for details or talk to Gary.

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

Attendance: Lenten Worship – 70 2/28/2021 – 193

<u>February 2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Operating	\$60,937	\$116,006	\$55,209	\$115,072
Benevolence	\$ 4,934	\$ 9,501	\$ 278	\$ 1,278

Total Amount given to Good Samaritan Fund during pandemic as of 2/28/2021: \$18,280.

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.

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.

☞ CALENDAR ☞

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

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

MONDAY, MARCH 8

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

9:00am Quilters (103-4)
2:00pm Small Group (102)
6:00pm Cub Scouts (virtual)
6:30pm Blue Ribbon 4H (Flc)
7:00pm Boy Scouts (virtual)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

EAGLE DEADLINE

12:00pm Lenten Service (Sanc)
1:00pm Small Group (103-4)
6:15pm Lenten Service (Sanc)
6:45pm Explorers (virtual))
7:45pm Energizers (virtual)

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

7:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
1:00pm Small Group (101)
5:45pm Adventure Club (virtual)
6:45pm Faith Trek (virtual)
7:00pm Contem. Worship Reh.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

9:00am Prayer Shawl Min. (103-4)
10:30am 2nd Year Catechism Advance
4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm A.A Serenity Seekers (103-4)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

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

The Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2021, 2021

*“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery...” - Exodus 20:1-3*

God gave Moses specific instructions on what to say to the people before giving them the Ten Commandments. Listen to the words: “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.” (Exodus 19:4) Why would God say that? The Israelites who heard these words knew why. The memory was still fresh in their minds. God was saying, “Do you remember when you were trapped in Egypt and there was no escape from bondage? How you groaned under the cruelty of your taskmasters? I came down to buy you back out of slavery. Remember standing on the shore with the sea at your feet and Pharaoh’s troops breathing down your back? Feeling stuck because you couldn’t move forward and you couldn’t go back? I made a way for you when there was no way. Remember how in the wilderness I fed you with manna? Remember how I swooped down and bore you up on eagles’ wings? Remember?”

See, the rightful setting for the commandments is God’s boundless, faithful, fatherly love. Love doesn’t always come wrapped up like a pretty gift. It doesn’t always show up on your doorstep in the form of beautiful flowers. In fact, it just might be written in stone.

So how should we respond to such a gift? Before God gave the Ten Commandments, he told Moses to prepare the Israelites for his visit. They were to sanctify themselves and wash their clothes. When God comes down to visit you, it will require something of you. Something like reverence and expectancy, humility and awe. How might you and I prepare ourselves for whatever it is that God might like to give us or say to us?

We need to make room in our hearts and minds, we need to lose the clutter that prevents us from hearing God speak. Clutter like worry, and riches, and endless busyness that robs us of rest and peace. See, sin in our lives doesn’t stop God from giving, it just stops you and me from receiving.

Moses pleaded his case for the Israelites on the mountain, and God sent his first love letter written in stone. Today we come before Jesus Christ and he pleads for us before the Father’s throne. His love letter would be written in the blood of the Lamb. Let us prepare to receive his love in Word and Sacrament that we may be set free from all that holds us bound. Amen.

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