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

DATED MATERIALS

AUGUST 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP! Traditional Saturdays at 4pm Sundays at 8:15 & 11am <u>Contemporary</u> Sundays at 11am www.stjohnsgc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		 RAISE RIGHT DUE Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am SW Historical Society Picnic 7pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm 	2 Small Group 1pm	3 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am	 4 5 Bulletin Team 10:30am Private Event 10am Fast Food Fridays Traditional Worship (off-site) 1pm Serenity Seekers A A 8:30pm 	5 Private Event 10am <i>Traditional Worship 4pm</i> Serenity Seekers AA 7pm	md 7pm
6 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:30pm Youth Ministry Planning 6:30pm	7 Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	8 Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	9 Summer Fun 5:30pm	10 EAGLE DEADLINE Promise Keepers 8am A Joyful Pause 9am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm A Joyful Pause 5:30pm	1112Bulletin Team 10:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry East Food Fridays9am(off-site) 1pmPrivate Event 11am(aff-site) 1pmTraditional Worship 4fAA 8:30pmSerenity Seekers AA 7	12 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Private Event 11am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm	mq 7pm
13 <i>Traditional Worship 8:15am</i> Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:30pm	14 Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	15 Quilters 9:30am Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	16 Small Group 1pm	17 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am	 18 19 Bulletin Team 10:30am Traditional Worship 4pm OWLS 11:30am Serenity Seekers AA 7pr Fast Food Fridays (off-site) 1pm AA 8:30pm 	19 I Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm	pm 7pm
20 BACKPACK BLESSINGS Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:30pm	21 Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	22 Quilters 9:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	33	24 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm	25 Bulletin Team 10:30am Traditional Worship 4pm AA 8:30pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pr	26 I Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm	pm 7pm
27 Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10am	28 Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm	29 Quilters 9:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	30 Small Group 1pm	31 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am	s M Sep	September T W T F \$	s
Combined Outdoor Worship 10:45am	Puppets 6:30pm Respect Life Tom	12pm Bov Scouts #392 7pm	-		28	∽	N
Confirmation Orientation 12:15pm					3 4 5	678	g
Church Picnic, Back to School Bash	Daily Reprieve AA 7pm				10 11 12	13 14 15 1	16
& silent Auction 1zpm Adult Basketball 5:30pm					17 18 19	20 21 22 2	23
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY everyone born in the month AUGGUST

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF JULY 9, 2023

Accessibility Project

Given in memory of **Pastor Ray Rosenthal** by Douglas and Renee Hopper; and Jack and Sharon Koehler and Jeff and Jill Williams.

Given in memory of **Pastor Ray and Janet Rosenthal** by Lance and Kim Kuhn; Kevin and Holly Starr; Rob and Kristi Klise; and Robert and Sandra Hateley.

Given in memory of Craig Sonnen by Connie Sonnen.

Given in memory of Bill England by Beth Katterhenrich; and Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Given in memory of Fritz Buck by Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Given in memory of Barbara O'Day by Dellno and Betty Lewis.

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Bill England** by Ike and Shelah Stage. Given in memory of **Fritz Buck** by Julie Finney. Given in memory of **Sandra Collins** by Jay and Deborah Linley.



YOUTH AND FAMILY

A note from Laurie

When I think about the last 40 years, there's a song that comes to mind ... to God be the glory, great things He had done! I started in my first ministry position as a youth director at Grace Lutheran in Fremont, Ohio, in August of 1983. Gary and I married in 1986. I've worked in various ministries and jobs, always with youth. Thirty-two of those years, I've been at St. John's in both part-time and full-time positions. God has been so good, blessing me with a devoted husband and a beautiful faith web of children, youth, and friends. I am ever-thankful for the gift of each of you. I hope that you know how much I cherish you. As you've probably heard by now, I'm being led by God to move from my full-time position to a part-time position at St. John's, serving families and working with pre-K through 6th grade, effective the first of September. I look forward to be able to spend more time with Gary, my Dad, in my Bible, and going on little adventures. And, as always, I'm looking forward to another year of being with my St. John's family.

BACKPACK BLESSING is Sunday, August 20th! Bring your backpack with you to worship! During the Children's Sermon, pastors will say a special blessing over you, your backpacks, and your school year!

FAMILIES and ALL AGES!

• A JOYFUL PAUSE! Come for free play in the gym, arts and crafts, table games, a light meal, and fellowship! Come 9am to noon and/or 5:30—8:30pm on Thursday, August 10. Join us when you can. Leave when you have to! Families with older children are welcome to join us. We love our faith webbing grandparents. All are welcome!

GRADES 5-8

• SUMMER FUN! An evening full of fun, faith, and friendship! Dinner included. Join us on Wednesday, August 9, 5:30—8:30pm.

<u>GRADES 7—8 and 9—12+</u>

• **ST. JOHNSVILLE!** Learn Christian finances while playing the game of "St. Johnsville". Sundays, 9:30—10:30am. We meet in the confirmation room.

GRADES 9—12+

• **FAST FOOD FRIDAYS!** Throughout the summer, we've met to catch up with each other. Come when you can. Leave when you have to. **August 4, 11, 18, 1—3pm.** Places TBA. If you'd like to stop in and grab a bite with us, let Laurie or Diana know and we'll be sure to text you where we will be!



OUTDOOR WORSHIP, CHURCH PICNIC, AND BACK TO SCHOOL BASH **ONE DAY – THREE GREAT EVENTS!!**

On August 27th at 10:45am, we will combine our three Sunday worship services into one grand outdoor worship event. Bring lawn chairs and dress causal as we gather by our shelter house to praise God under His clear blue sky. Note that the 4pm worship service will be held as usual Saturday, August 26th, but please join us on Sunday for the picnic and other activities!

The Church Picnic will be here before you know it! We have set aside Sunday, August 27th for this time of fellowship. We will gather in the Shelter House (weather permitting) immediately following the **Outdoor Worship Service.**

Everything will be provided for the picnic; however, we will be collecting a 'free will offering' to help offset the cost. All donations will be greatly appreciated! Please bring a dessert to share.

This year, we will incorporate into the church picnic all of the fun activities from the Back to School **Bash** that benefit the short-term mission trips! There will be a silent auction with many exciting items to choose from. Please save the date and plan to spend the afternoon with us. You will be glad you did!



You, the congregation, and the Quilters are partners in making and filling the Christmas bags for the needy children. The Quilters truly appreciate your willing participation in this ministry. The Quilters make and you fill 100 Christmas bags for the children at the Grove City Food Pantry at the Methodist Church. School supplies continue to be on sale at various stores. A box of 24 Crayola crayons is

on sale price of \$.50. Larger boxes of crayons do not fit in the bags. We can always use glue sticks, sturdy combs, nail clippers, pencils, small notepads, small rubber bouncy balls if you find a good deal on them. Remember, any quantity is acceptable. Donate as few or as many as you can afford and want to donate.

Next month, Halloween candy will start at appear on store shelves. Please buy enough of this "sweetenin' power" to have leftover Halloween candy for the Christmas bags. In the fall, we will start to cut and sew the Christmas bags. We can use any children's Christmas material you have or see at the store and just feel it's right for the children's bags. Thank you for thinking about Halloween candy and Christmas giving in August.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm or thereabouts in rooms 103-104. We are a very small group of about 4-7 people and like to see new faces. Come and stay as you are able and desire. We don't punch a timecard. Bring a sack lunch if staying around noon. All materials are provided.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Missionaries on the Move!

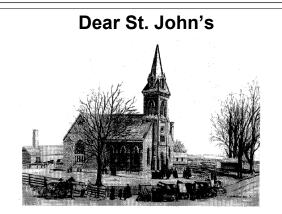
From July 21 – 30^{1st}, our Mexico Mission Family will be glorifying our God together with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Mexico.



This year's Mexico Mission Family is Jill Althoff, Lukas Althoff, Evan Beachler, Briggeman, Laura Carpenter, Emily Matt Carpenter, Kim Easterday, Matt Easterday, Ana Gantz, John Gantz, Chelsea Hartzler, Dennis Imbrock, Diana Imbrock. Alec Stenerson, Michaela Stenerson, Amy Wanner, and Megan Wycuff.

While in Mexico we will be sharing God's Word, playing games, making crafts, and loving the children of a Tijuana orphanage. This is the 16th year that we have been called to serve and love at Rancho Genesis!

Please hold our "missionaries on the move" in your hearts and prayers as we extend the love of Christ and St. John's to all we encounter!



Through the ages we have come To this special place Overcoming worldly cares Through His saving grace.

Many baptized and confirmed Blessings do abound Count the many ties that bind Here at dear St. John's.

All the sermons, hymns, and prayers Echo throughout time Praising God and thanking Him For His grace divine.

As each dawn and sunset comes And the church bells sound We are thankful for our God And for dear St. John's.



Contact the leaders listed above for more information.

OWLS EVENT — AUGUST 18, 2023



The Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) have some exciting programs lined up for the next few months. We're OLDER, WISER LUTHERANS hoping you agree and plan to

join us the third Friday of each month for potluck lunch and to hear from our invited speakers. Next month we will be headed to Der Dutchman in Plain City for our annual trip to enjoy a delicious lunch and friendship. Over the next few months, we hope to hear about Beulah Park's 100 anniversary - big difference between then and now. The Franklin County Auditor's office is planning to reappraise property values and what will this mean to you. Watch for more information in The Eagle and our Sunday News Notes.

Have you heard of the Dedicated Senior Medical Center? Their mission is to honor seniors with affordable, VIP care that delivers better health. Affordable VIP care might sound too good to be true. But at Dedicated Senior Medical Center, it's how they do business. If you come to our August meeting vou will hear much more.

The OWLS will provide fried chicken for our potluck lunch but we ask you bring a covered dish and join your friends for lunch and a wonderful program. Please plan to arrive around 11:15am so we can open the meeting at 11:30am. Use the salmon insert in Sunday's bulletin to make your reservation so the group can plan accordingly. You can also call the office or Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002.

Hope to see you there!

by Patricia L. Walters

A THANK YOU MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION: I would like to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you for all of the cards, gifts and kind notes that I have received acknowledging my retirement. It has been a blessing working for 20+ years at such a wonderful church and for all of the amazing people I have had the opportunity to partner in ministry with. I also want to thank everyone for the hours you've devoted to our church's mission and vision. Thank you for being a friend to those in need and most importantly, thank you for helping to make our church a wonderful and welcoming place. I pray that God continues to use your gifts and talents in ways that will bless his kingdom. I am so grateful for everything you do and can't wait to see what God has in store for us next! Sincerely, ~ Elaine Bennett.



THANK YOU for your generosity in filling your Baby Bottles to help in the work of our local Pregnancy Decision Health Centers! You've helped them to encourage and guide young moms who thought they had nowhere to turn, bring the Gospel to the unchurched, and support families as they raise their children. If you have a Baby Bottle to turn in, please bring it to the church office; and if you are interested in learning more about the pregnancy centers, contact them through <u>pdhc.org</u>, and they will be delighted to tell you more about their work. Thank you for supporting this outreach! ~ Respect Life Team.

WHAT A GREAT WEEK AT VBS!! Thank you to the congregation for all the donations and all the support to make VBS happen this year. We had a wonderful time teaching over 85 youth about the Hero Hotline of the Bible and learning about ways that we are called together to serve God! We could not have put on such an amazing VBS without the help of our VBS teachers, kitchen ladies, craft and recreation leaders, science and service leaders, puppet leader, music leaders and our awesome teen helpers! It is these hard-working people that make it a blessing each year to love kids into the kingdom at VBS.

THANK YOU Pastor Seth and everyone who made lunch for Bill England's memorial service. Everything was beautiful. What a blessing it is to be a part of the church family who has loved my family well for years. ~ Sky Eckel and the Englands.

THANK YOU to all my friends at St. John's for so many cards, good wishes, and flowers in honor of my birthday." ~ Toni Wilson.

THANK YOU for all the church does to support (the Southwest Franklin County Historical) Society, especially providing a meeting place for our monthly meetings. Sincerely, ~ Steve Jackson.

Coming this October, St. John's got Talent!

In anticipation of the completion of the accessibility project, St. John's Church is planning an autumn evening of entertainment. On Saturday, October 21, at 7:00 pm, we will host a program entitled "St. John's Got Talent." It will consist of members of the St. John's Church family who are willing to share their talents with the congregation. That talent could include singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or comedy.

The program will take place in the Family Life Center. Participation in the program is open to 4th graders through adults.

Anyone interested in being in the show or helping backstage should contact Mark Meuser, Nick Grossman, Pastor Seth, or Pastor Patti. You can also leave a message at the church office at 614-875-6716. **Please let us know by October 1.**

All performers must be approved by Mark Meuser or Nick Grossman. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, October 14 at 7:00 pm. We hope that many people will be willing to showcase their talents. The evening will be a great opportunity for both traditional and contemporary worshippers to join together to celebrate our new facility.

WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are happy to teach anyone interested how to knit or crochet. For more information, call Glenda Allman at 614-352-5955 or Diana Imbrock at 614-271-5775.



Join us for the next meetings on Saturday, August 12 at 9am and Tuesday, August 22 at 7pm in rooms 103-4. Letter from the Pastor, continued from front page.

- When we are suffering, it's OK to "lose it" with God. He fully understands that we cannot see his loving will at work behind the scenes, and he also knows our crushing pain personally. Job makes it abundantly clear: God is listening and will respond to us! It is such a powerful help to know that Jesus himself is there with us, in that place of darkness. We can remember that he himself, with his body broken, cried out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It is better to express our agony openly to God than it is for us to suffer in silence.
- Sometimes we will experience not only the consequences of our own sins (which we can make sense of), but also the "collateral damage" that comes with being part of a broken world. It's so hard for us, when a family member is in a fatal car accident, for example, or when we get lung cancer having never smoked a cigarette our whole lives. It doesn't add up. That's when our knowledge that "God is in control" actually can make us question God's loving nature. In those hardest of times, we can again look to Christ, who was completely innocent but who was convicted. If Jesus himself was crushed under the wheel of the world, we know there is nowhere we can be that he himself is not with us, giving us his life, his goodness, and his future. In Christ, even as I am crushed under the wheel of the world, my eternal place with my loving Savior God is secure.

May God bless us and make us agents of his peace, comfort, and healing in all our relationships.

In Christ, Pastor Seth Jersild

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION 2023-24

It's almost time to begin our 2023-24 year of confirmation class at St. John's!

If your child is entering 7th or 8th grade this fall, we encourage you to enroll him/her in our confirmation program. It's a wonderful opportunity for young people to wrestle with their faith, grow in Christ, serve in his name, and establish strong ties of friendship within God's Church.



All potential confirmation students and at least one of their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend an orientation meeting on **Sunday, August 27th.** We will meet in the main sanctuary after late worship, at **12:15 p.m.**

At the orientation, we'll go over the confirmation requirements and answer any questions you may have. At the end of the orientation, you can decide whether you can make the commitment this year.

If you cannot come to the orientation on August 27th, but are interested in confirmation for your child, please call Pastor Seth Jersild at 217-255-2118 or at church (217-469-7422) today.

The first regular confirmation class is scheduled for **Sunday, September 10th, at 9:30 a.m.** If you know of any children outside our congregation who might be interested in confirmation instruction, please let their parents/guardians know they are very welcome to take part in our program. See you in church!



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Family Life Center on TUESDAY, AUGUST 29 from 12pm to 6 pm.

> To schedule your appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: StJohnsGC



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL 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
Tim Allman Sunday School Superintendent	614-875-2314
Diane Sexton Director of Lay Ministries dsexton@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Michael Esposito Business Manager mesposito@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Nick Grossman Contemporary Worship Leader	614-875-2314
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Susan Locey Bell Choir Director	614-208-8215
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David Shrum Contemporary Music Leader	614-875-2314
Karen Whyte, Librarian barnowl@iwaynet.net	614-878-9392

The article deadline for the SEPTEMBER Eagle is <u>AUGUST 10TH.</u>

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

Our Chrístían Sympathy ís extended to



The family and friends of **Barbara O'Day,** who passed away on July 1, 2023.

The family and friends of Frederick "Fritz" Buck, who passed away on July 1, 2023.

All who grieve are in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations On Your Baptism

Congratulations to Sean and Kyrsten Robinette on the baptism of their son, **Luke James,** on July 2nd, 2023, during the 11am traditional service.

Congratulations to Dustin and Danielle Flint on the baptism of their son, **Xavier Timothy**, on July 16th, 2023, during the 11am contemporary service.

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

JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP <u>Traditional Service</u>: Saturdays at 4:00pm, Sundays at 8:15am & 11am <u>Contemporary Service</u>: Sundays at 11am <u>Sunday School</u>: for all ages every Sunday, 9:30am

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

<u>Officers:</u> Aaron Clark, Council President; Paul Wittenberg Vice President, Karen Bentley, Secretary; Kathy Myers, Treasurer.

<u>Members-At-Large:</u> Warren Althoff, Shirley Blake, Dave Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Karen Grossman, Tammy LeVally, Phil Pennington, Gary Smith.



Letter from the Pastor

Our St. John's Promise Keepers group is currently reading through the book of Job. Few books of the Old Testament bring us so relentlessly face to face with our brokenness, and with our need for salvation in Jesus Christ.

Job has lost everything...his family and his future...and he's crying out to God in pain. He never once doubts that God is in control of everything. He knows that God is all-powerful. His struggle is much more personal. He is asking, "does God *care* about me? Does God *love* me? Does God *listen* to me?" What Job wants is an intervention. He wants God to answer him, touch him, *save* him. At one point, Job cries out (almost defiantly) in suffering pain, faith, and hope:

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. [Job 19:25-27]

At first, Job's friends sit with him for seven days in silence. But then, they start speaking to Job, trying to help him make sense of his situation. His friends keep telling Job what he already knows: that God is in control, and that the world makes sense. They remind him that the good flourish, and the wicked "are like chaff that the wind blows away," echoing the wisdom of Psalm 1.

Of course, Job can't help but hear a personal judgment against himself in that. He knows perfectly well that he's an imperfect, broken human being. But he keeps asking, "if I have done something *particular* that has brought me to this horrible situation, please tell me what it is!" In other words, Job is ready to receive punishment for any wrongs he has committed. He will gladly die if that's what God wills. What hurts Job the most, though, is the seeming *silence* of God, and his sense of separation from the One whom he has always known as good and loving.

God does not remain silent. He intervenes mightily and blows apart all of the friends' (and Job's) attempts to understand God's ways. They all experience the direct power of God, and it's not exactly comforting. It's more like watching a tornado approach. However, in the end, God's love for Job is confirmed. Many Christian commentators have seen a foreshadowing of the resurrection from the dead in the last chapters of Job, when Job is restored to a full, blessed life.

In the end, we can pull some powerful truths from Job, which can help us when we (or our loved ones) are suffering:

• When someone is hurting, our steadfast presence in the room is more powerful than words. Jesus goes beyond words himself when he gives us bread and wine and says, "this is my body, given for you...this is my blood, shed for you." The most loving thing Job's friends did for him was to sit in silence for seven days with him.