

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

DATED MATERIALS

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

September 2023

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional


Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

www.stjohnsgc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
3 NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL Traditional Worship 8:15am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:30pm	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	5 RAISE RIGHT DUE Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm	6 Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	7 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm	8 Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	9 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
10 EAGLE DEADLINE RALLY DAY Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:30pm	11 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Altar Guild Meeting 1pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	12 Quilters 9:30am Private Event 4pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	13 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1pm Lions Club 5:30pm Private Event 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	14 Private Event 9am Small Group 9:30am Celebration Ringers 6:15pm	15 ARTS IN THE ALLEY Private Event 8am Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS @ Der Dutchman 11:30am AA 8:30pm	16 ARTS IN THE ALLEY Arts in the Alley Parade 9:30am Quilt Show 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
17 ARTS IN THE ALLEY Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Quilt Show 12pm	18 Private Event 9am BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	19 Quilters 9:30am Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	20 BSF 9:30am Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers Leader Training 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	21 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek Leader Training 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm	22 Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	23 Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
24 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Confirmation Photos 12pm Adult Basketball 5:30pm	25 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Respect Life 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	26 Quilters 9:30am Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	27 SEE YOU AT THE POLE (off-site) BSF 9:30am Small Group 1pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	28 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm	29 Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	30 Private Event 12pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Prepares to Celebrate the
175 Year Anniversary in 2024**



**3220 Columbus Street, Grove City 43123
614-875-2314**

2024 WILL BE ST. JOHN'S 175th ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

Next year, St. John's will be celebrating 175 years of Christian ministry in Grove City!

We want to celebrate this special milestone with a variety of events throughout the year in 2024. If you would like to be part of the 175th Anniversary Committee, please let Pastor Seth or Pastor Patti know within the next few weeks. We need a group of energetic, creative people who will take the reins and have fun planning and organizing anniversary activities. We hope the Committee can have its first meeting in October.

It's important for us to remember and appreciate the story of this great congregation, to give thanks to God for where we've been, and to look forward to where he's leading us!

Please pray about it, and consider joining the team!



Relationships are important to us at St. John's!

We want to surround our children and youth with lots of faith-filled relationships, of all ages, so that they might know the love of Jesus and stay connected with the church.

If you'd like to know more about faith-webbing, outcome-based ministry, our many service projects, family devotions, and/or how you can make a difference in a young person's life, stop by the youth office on the second floor and talk to us!

UPDATED WEBSITE! Big applause and thanks to David Clark because...drum roll, please...we have a new look on the St. John's website! Check us out at <https://www.stjohnsgc.org/children-youth-ministries/>

JOIN THE CHILDREN MINISTRY TEAM! Make a difference on THURSDAY NIGHTS by volunteering with Adventure Club and Faith Trek. Both meet on Thursday nights, 5:45 - 7:15pm. Adult and teen leader training will be September 21, 5:45 - 7:15pm. If you're able, let Laurie know you're coming for a dinner head count.

Adventure Club and Faith Trek start the next week, September 28. They meet weekly, 5:45 - 7:15pm. The greeter's table opens at 5:30pm. Suggested donation for the evening meal is \$3. Adventure Club is for ages 4 through 4th grade. Faith Trek is for 5th and 6th grade. Each group enjoys gym time, a meal with friends, arts and crafts, and an active learning Bible lesson. We have lots of teen and adult leaders who love spending the night with the children. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us. We also love our faith-webbing adult friends. Talk to Laurie about joining us!

Explorers and Energizers for grades 7—8 and 9—12 will start on Wednesday, September 27, 7—8:30pm. Interested in being on the adult leadership team? Please connect with Interim Youth Director, Gini Rogers. Gini has been helping with the youth groups and is an amazing leader. She's also a teacher at Groveport Madison Schools. Gini is dedicated, witty, insightful, and the youth love her!

AXIS.ORG is "connecting Parents, Teens, & Jesus in a Disconnected World." This website is full of free resources on parenting youth in today's culture. There is also an AXIS resource wall on the second floor, across from the youth office. It's full of insightful Parent Guides with practical tips on parenting. <https://axis.org/>

PARENTING GROUP meets every Sunday during the Sunday School hour, in Room 103-104, with Amy Wanner. Stop by and join the conversation. It's a great place to be encouraged and feel supported.

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES!



September 15-17
October 7
All of November
November 5
November 19
December 2

Arts in the Alley
Fall Mission Bazaar
Operation Christmas Child
Veterans' Luncheon
Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction
Family Bike Assembly

And, we always need acolytes, worship readers, Children's Church and Adventure Club/Faith Trek Leaders, and Prayer Room Coordinators.

Contact Diana or sign up in the confirmation room.

Ask us about Mexico! 😊



Our Mexico Mission Family just returned from an amazing trip after spending a week with 21 beautiful children from the Hope Orphanage of Tijuana. We will be sharing our stories monthly in the Eagle, but feel free to ask us personally if you have a few hours to kill!

This year, when the “family” was asked to describe their experience in a few words, they said, “amazing and very humbling; the children always soften my heart; FANTASTIC!; AMAZING!; it was a time to grow in my faith; stretching; if ‘good’ is enough to describe God, then it works here, too; glorious and uplifting; hard to make sacrifices, but very rewarding; my heart is full; sobering and encouraging; and a breath of fresh air.”

***Thank you for holding us in your hearts and prayers
as we extended the love of Christ and St. John’s to all the children!***

If you would like to be a part of the Mexico Mission Family 2024, talk to Diana for details!

Arts in the Alley and Pizza!



What a winning combination!
The **St. John’s Short-term Mission Teams** are again teaming up with Marcos Pizza to provide warm pizza, as well as cold drinks and chips at **Arts in the Alley**, Friday through Sunday, September 15th through 17th.

Please plan on stopping by our booth in the new Park Street Stage area to visit and break bread with us!



wholehearted
SEE YOU AT THE POLE™
GLOBAL DAY OF STUDENT PRAYER

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f t y

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. -Jeremiah 29:13

Sept 27
2023

FALL MISSIONS BAZAAR—OCTOBER 7, 2023

The Fall Missions Bazaar will return **Saturday, October 7, 2023**, from 9am to 1pm. Please come and support our short-term mission trips while enjoying shopping, raffles, food and fun!

We are adding a bake sale to this year's festivities again, and we would love to have any donations dropped off either Friday, October 6 from 6-8pm or the day of the sale (10/7) from 7-9am.

There are still spaces available for vendors. Please contact Diana Imbrock at dimrock@stjohnsgc.org for more information.



For details, contact Laurie at lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org.

**ORDERS ARE PLACED
THE FIRST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH.**

You can also order on-line.
Talk to Pam Wittenberg!

Connect your KROGER
card with the COMMUNITY
REWARDS PROGRAM.



Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>.

Our organization number is EY530.

Shop at Kroger and a
percentage comes back
to the youth at St. John's!

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.

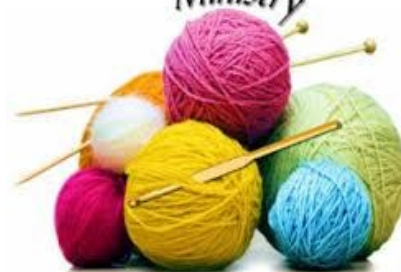
Anyone interested in being in the show or helping backstage should contact Mark Meuser, Nick Grossman, Pastor Seth, or Pastor Patti. You can also leave a message at the church office at 614-875-6716. **Please let us know by October 1.**

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.

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



**Join us for the next meetings on
Saturday, September 10 at 9am
and Tuesday, September 26 at 7pm
in rooms 103-4.**



**Here's a spiritual growth goal:
join a Circle of friends!**

Elizabeth Circle
Contact
Sherry Nighbert
614-581-1436

Sarah Circle
Contact
Wilma Phillips
614-875-7931

Joining our Circles is an easy way to make
new friends and grow spiritually.
Both Circles have evening meeting times.
Contact the leaders listed above
for more information.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF AUGUST 6, 2023

Accessibility Project

Given in memory of **Ray and Janet Rosenthal** by Robert
and Sandra Hateley.

Given in memory of **Vera Ruzicka** on her birthday by
daughter, Pat Marie.

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Fritz Buck** by Madison County
Producers Association; Esie Mykrantz; Nancy, Kevin,
and Cheryl Clemmons; Cynthia Black (also in memory
of **Donald and Helen Buck and Steven Buck**);
Thomas and Joyce Lloyd; Jennifer Hunter; Sue and
Kevin Havens; the Knowles Family; and Garnett and
Valda Hunter.

Given in memory of **Barbara O'Day** by Raymond and
Karen Bentley.

Arts in the Alley Parade



We are pleased to announce
that once again St. John's
will be participating in the
Arts in the Alley Parade that
takes place on Saturday,
September 16th at 9:30am.

**We are in need of people to walk in the parade and pass
out candy.** If you are interested in participating, please mark
the salmon insert. We are getting new T-shirts this year for
volunteers, so don't forget to mark your size as well! Not
participating in the parade, but would like a new **St. John's
T-shirt?** You can order one for yourself. We'll let you know the
price as soon as it becomes available.

We are also in need of candy donations. As you can
imagine, it takes a lot of candy to make it through the parade!
Please consider representing St. John's in this fun community
event. You can contact Diane Sexton or Nick Grossman with
any questions you may have. Diane can be reached at
dsexton@stjohnsgc.org or 678-572-0308. Nick can be reached
at ngrossman12@gmail.com or 614-560-3724. Thanks!

**We will be making the new St. John's T-shirts available to
purchase even if you are not participating in the parade.
Details and pricing to follow soon in the news bulletin.**

**You can drop off candy anytime before the event. We will
be placing bins wherever you pick up your bulletin.**

Dear St. John's youth,

Thank you for making the 25 doll quilts
as a service project. Thank you even
more for helping the needy children to
have a more merry and blessed
Christmas.

~ The Woodworkers of Central Ohio.



To the congregation at St. John's,

Every year, Fat Quarter Quilt Guild
counts our blessings – that St. John's
opened their doors, allowing us to meet
and create. Your generosity is so
appreciated. Not every church is willing
to allow a bunch of ladies to traipse in
and out of your building every month.
You are so welcoming, and we
appreciate it.

May we all have another profitable
(quilt-speaking) and delightful year.

Gratefully,

~ Karen R Lane, FQQG Secretary.

OWLS EVENT — SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

If you would ask almost any OWL (Older Wiser LutheranS) to name one of their favorite meetings of the year, I am pretty sure most of them would say “Der Dutchman! Of course!”. What’s not to like about a restaurant that is located in a beautiful country setting and the bounty of a country kitchen? They serve generous portions of hearty, home-style Amish Kitchen Cooking. They might not be as good as our Lutheran cooks, but we think they are pretty good. Their bakery is full of pastries, cakes, cookies, breads and their legendary pies that are baked every day. And if you have any money left over, their gift shop is very inviting.

For the past couple of years, we have enjoyed a wonderful lunch catching up with those we don’t get to see often so once again we will skip the program and enjoy our friends and conversation! We are so pleased to be able to get together and enjoy our time together. God has blessed each of us by leading us to St. John’s and offering us the Christian fellowship that is priceless.



You can order from the menu which includes their buffet for \$17.49 but it does not include your drink or pie. You can also choose from their lunch and dinner menu which includes homemade white bread or wheat dinner rolls, your choice of two side dishes and you can substitute one of your sides for the salad bar.

We will meet at the church at 10:45am to match up drivers with those who need a ride. For those who need a ride, I know they appreciate our drivers! We will depart for the restaurant no later than 11:15. We have reserved a private room. If you are driving separately you should plan to arrive between 11:45 and 12:00. If you are able and willing to drive, it would be greatly appreciated! Please make your reservation using the salmon sheet – including if you are able to drive, need a ride or if you are meeting the group at the restaurant.

Hope to see you there!



Quilters

The Quilters send many thanks to those who have already donated items for the Grove City Methodist Food Pantry Christmas bags for the children. Thank you especially for the donated Crayola crayons. We have met our goal of 100 boxes of crayons and 100 pencils. We feel so blessed to have you help us reach some of our goals early. We still need donations of sturdy combs. We cannot use combs that are in packs of multiple combs for a couple of dollars. The combs are too flimsy. We appreciate any number of small balls, small pads of paper, hair picks, and glue sticks. The children's delight is your leftover Halloween candy. We need two table full of candy to fill the 100 bags. Please check the expiration date is in 2024. We cannot give expired candy to the children. Please place your donation in the Quilters’ cabinet in the Link. The Quilters thank you for your interest, concern and thinking about Christmas giving so early in September.

We give a special thanks to Barbara Armentrout for her continue lookout for special deals for donations to our ministry. Barb donated beautiful Christmas material for the 25 Christmas doll quilts and pads for the youths’ sewing and service project. She always watches for good deals on Beanie Babies. Thank you, Barb, for your help and concern for the children.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm or thereabouts in rooms 103-104.
All materials are provided.

“Not everyone can do great things, but everyone can do small things with great love.”
~ Mother Teresa

b. WE HOPE TO HAVE A YOUTH MINISTER WHO...

- will equip and train children to take leadership roles in worship.
- will encourage youth to take part in service projects and learning by *doing* (the disciples not only listened to Jesus teach, they followed what he did).
- will show up and be present at church activities: “make the rounds” so that families see that the minister is involved, engaged, approachable and accessible.
- will constantly search for new ways the youth can serve, so that activities will maintain fresh life and energy.
- is always learning and growing in their own Christian faith, so that they model a life of continual learning and growth for the youth.
- will model a sense of healthy, Christ-centered family for so many of our youth who are coming from challenging family situations.

c. Discuss the Bible’s role in youth ministry. What kind of special training, if any, do you think will be important for the new youth minister? How do you think scripture is most effectively taught in a youth ministry setting?

- The Bible must be central to youth activities. We hope that all our youth activities, as much as possible, will be immersion experiences in the Word of God.
- We hope to have a youth minister who will have a powerful sense of the grand narrative of scripture, and who will be able to make broad connections between overarching Bible themes and everyday life.
- We hope our youth minister will be skilled with Christian apologetics, so they can teach our children not only basic Christian beliefs, but how to confidently explain to others *why* they believe what they do, and *why* they don’t put their trust in humanistic or other alternatives.
- We hope our youth minister will be open to using all sorts of tools (drama, music, fun activities) to convey and teach God’s Word.
- We hope our youth minister has a good understanding of how children learn information and wisdom most effectively. Experiential learning (e.g. service projects, mission activities, mission trips) solidifies Biblical learning and makes it memorable.

**CHANCEL CHOIR AND CELEBRATION RINGERS RESUME PRACTICE THIS FALL!
New Members Welcome!**

The Chancel Choir will be returning to traditional worship after its summer break. Their first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 6th from 7:30 to 9pm in the Sanctuary. We cordially invite anyone who is interested in singing to attend this rehearsal.

Singing in the Chancel Choir is a great opportunity to serve. Whether you are an experienced singer or just a beginner, you will find the choir to be a welcoming group whose purpose is to praise God in song. Anyone interested can simply come to the first rehearsal or e-mail Choir Director Mark Meuser at mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org if you have additional questions.

The Women’s Chorale will start its fall rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th as well. We will meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

The Men’s Chorale will meet on Sunday, September 3rd at 9:30am in the choir room.

The Celebration Ringers are looking forward to a new year of ringing for worship. If you are interested in enhancing worship with us, contact Susan Locey at 614-208-8215 or by email at sea.low6011@gmail.com. Rehearsals begin September 14 at 6:15pm.

Summary of Our “Looking Forward” Youth Ministry Discussions, continued.

II. Where God Is Leading Us

a. With a view to the trends and challenges identified in question “c” above, express what ideal qualities and strengths you would like to see fostered in our youth through their participation in church activities. What are some of the most important faith-based strengths we want to instill in our children for these times?

- We want our young people to know God, the true and unending source of hope.
- We pray that our young people’s confidence in God will be so strong that they will not only be passive believers, but also servant leaders.
- We want our youth to be steeped in God’s Word, so that they can constantly make connections between God’s Word and today’s world.
- We want our children to know where to turn in all their trials, with all their questions.
- We want our children to have a strong sense of identity in Christ.
- We want our youth to have a powerful, God-centered sense of self-esteem.
- We pray that our youth will become influencers for Jesus.

b. With a view to the above, what ideal qualities and strengths do you think will be especially important in a youth minister moving forward?

WE HOPE TO HAVE A YOUTH MINISTER WHO...

- will be so deeply rooted and confident in Christ that he/she can be approachable, and connect with people wherever they are at in life.
- will continue to nurture relationships between young people and a variety of adults and other children in the church.
- does not so much need to be the center of attention as he/she is more of a behind-the-scenes initiator, organizer, and facilitator of Christ-centered relationships in the church.
- will be confident and form strong ideas for his/her own program, and at the same time be open to feedback and input from parents/youth.
- will be in regular formal communication with Laurie and Diana while they continue in their ministry, and that the three youth ministers will work as a team, learning from and inspiring each other.
- will utilize external resources to keep learning and growing in their ministry (including being part of a youth leader network).
- will be willing to get involved in formal training for youth ministry as needed in the early stages of his/her ministry with us.
- is mature and has had some experience “in the trenches.” While his/her biological age will not necessarily be a factor, we need a person who does not identify as *one of* the youth. Since the world/culture is divided right now and children are forced to constantly question their own identity and self-worth, a youth minister needs to be lovingly firm about setting healthy boundaries and very confident in his/her Christian identity. A *mature* and reflective Christian faith will thus be very important.
- will be accepting, loving, understanding, and who will work to welcome children who are living in challenging circumstances. Experience with children who deal with mental health issues (depression, ADD, etc.) will be helpful.
- will be Jesus-centered in everything they do.
- will constantly encourage and model a life of prayer.
- will be wise to the pitfalls of technology, but also be willing and able to use technology to further the Kingdom of God.
- will be able to share personal experiences with the youth (as appropriate) to help model Christian faith and help them see the minister as “living proof” of the Gospel.

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- how one of the main goals of our youth ministry is to have Christian ministry *come from the kids*.
- how our youth leaders get out and go to youth events in the community.
- how our youth ministers are skilled at listening to individual youth and observing them in order to discern how they could best put their skills and talents to work for Jesus.
- how our youth ministers always encourage feedback from youth and the congregation at large.
- how our youth ministers can be flexible and adapt to changing circumstances.
- our youth ministers' high level of interpersonal skill.
- how our youth ministers try to reach out and connect with each and every child.
- how our program encourages youth to support and minister to each other.

b. What do you think we need to carefully and lovingly preserve in our youth ministry going forward?

- We hope our youth ministers will continue to go outside the immediate church context and make broad connections with youth, meeting them “where they’re at” in the world, so that the youth can understand that Christ is not just King in a particular location, but in every aspect of life.
- We treasure the *Faith Webbing* approach to youth ministry that Gary and Laurie have introduced at St. John’s, where the ideal is that each youth is surrounded by an intergenerational web of people who are supporting them, and who are walking alongside them on their faith journey.
- We hope our youth ministry will continue to instill a strong desire in our youth to be servant leaders.
- We hope our youth ministry leader(s) will continue to be listeners first, to be aware and respectful of the many different backgrounds/contexts from which each of our children is coming.
- We want our youth ministers to continue to be deeply rooted and grounded in the Bible, and to make God’s Word the center of each and every youth activity, since it is the only true guide for life and salvation.

c. What do you think are some recent trends and special challenges we are facing in our ministry to youth (positive and/or concerning), due to a changing culture (locally and/or nationwide)?

- Children are questioning themselves and their identity more than ever. Without a strong core, they can feel like they are being torn down constantly without being built up.
- There are strong external forces at work, pressuring young people to fit into neat categories and to be members of opposing “teams.”
- Powerful forces are continually demanding youth to answer: “Who are you? What is true?”
- Children are faced with a deeply divided world right now (including divisions that reach into congregations). They generally feel more like they are under more pressure and on their own, in a colder world.
- For most parents, sports and many other activities have become more important than church for their children. They are focusing on the utilitarian value of activities rather than the relational, and truth value, of activities. They are trying to help their children towards a future of accomplishments, but in doing so are teaching their children that their lives are rooted in their own successes and failures.
- The external culture has stopped supporting Christian faith. It will take much more time and intentional effort for the Church to build young people up in their Christian identity.
- The divisions in our society have created an atmosphere of harshness and knee-jerk judgment in almost every area of community life. Empathy has become a rare quality.
- The Church, more than ever, needs to be a refuge and a safe place where relationships of trust are nurtured over the long haul for young people.

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Summary of Our “Looking Forward” Youth Ministry Discussions

St. John’s is embarking on a search for a new youth minister who will work with our 7th-12th grade students. On the Sundays of July 30th and August 6th, a group of members responded to an open invitation to get together and discuss the following material. The rough results of our discussions, presented below, will not only help guide our search and interview process, but will eventually be integrated into a strong and focused youth ministry plan. We are so thankful to all of our members who are participating in this process! We want to share the results with the congregation here, because youth ministry is such an important part of who we are (and who we will be!) at St. John’s.

I. Where God Has Led Us

a. *What do you especially love and appreciate about St. John’s youth ministry?*

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR:

- the huge amounts of love, care, energy and resources that so many people in the congregation invest in youth ministry.
- the intergenerational connections and relationships which Laurie, Gary, and Diana have fostered within the congregation for the sake of the youth.
- how the youth ministers have focused on training and empowering the youth to become Christian leaders in their own right.
- how so many different adults are encouraged to interact with youth in all activities.
- how our youth ministers instill a sense of “personal ownership” in our youth for their own faith. They do this by giving them tools to put their faith into action.
- how our youth ministers provide the youth with “scaffolding”—all the support they need—underneath them as they venture into active Christian ministry, and then how they carefully withdraw the scaffolding as time goes on so that each youth can stand more on his/her own as a Christian servant and witness.
- how our youth ministers are deeply rooted in the Lutheran Christian tradition, which enables them to convey the eternal truth of the Gospel creatively in circumstances which are always changing.

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YOUTH MINISTER SURVEY RESULTS: Thanks to all of you who filled out the youth minister survey! Below are the final results, with highest values at the top. As we embark on our search for a new youth minister to work with our 7-12th grade students, this will provide our interview team (and candidates) with a helpful snapshot of our congregation’s priorities. The survey listed 19 qualities/qualifications with “0” being a valid response. The answers below reflect average scores.

Faith Nurture (e.g. Bible studies)	15.66	Small Groups Formation	9.60
Education (Teaching)	13.57	Administrative Ability	8.22
Relational Ministry	11.28	Recruitment and Training of Adults	6.91
Outreach to Inactive or Unchurched Youth	11.14	Has College Degree	6.75
Lutheran	10.71	Large Group Events	6.70
Young Adult Ministry (post high school)	10.06	Musical Ability	5.55
Service Projects and Mission Trips	9.95	Camping	3.75
Ministry to Young Children (elementary)	9.64	Athletics	3.48
		Drama	3.14
		Male	1.36
		Female	1.18

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
Diana Imbrock, Youth Director dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org	614-271-5775
Susan Locey Bell Choir Director	614-208-8215
Mark Meuser Director of Music Ministries mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Janice Miller, Recorder jmiller@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Kathryn Mullins Office Administrator secretary@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Laurie Pecuch, Youth Director lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org	614-620-2669
David Shrum Contemporary Music Leader	614-875-2314
Karen Whyte, Librarian barnowl@iwaynet.net	614-878-9392

**The article deadline for the OCTOBER
Eagle is SEPTEMBER 10TH.**

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



***Our Christian Sympathy
is extended to***

The family and friends of Roger Klepzig,
brother of Neva Warren,
who died July 27, 2023.

The family and friends of Nell Coon,
grandmother of Susan Previts,
who died July 29, 2023.

The family and friends of Chuck Conkle,
who died August 10, 2023.

The family and friends of Carol Krieger,
who died on August 14, 2023.

The family and friends of Phyllis Herbert,
who died on August 17, 2023.

*All who grieve are in
our thoughts and prayers.*

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

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

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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

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



The Eagle

September 2023

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio
www.stjohnsgc.org 614/875-2314

Letter from the Associate Pastor



The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. – Revelation 14:19.

As a kid growing up in Lancaster County, PA, known for its Amish farming community among other things, I would watch with fascination as crops were planted, tended, and eventually harvested. The best part was at the end of the season, because the crops

would be harvested and sold to the local markets and especially Central Market in downtown Lancaster, where we would often roam the many halls and stalls to reap the fruits of their labor. Sweet corn like no other, fresh tomatoes, peas, beans – you name it, it was there.

The Bible often uses the harvest as an image of God's judgment. At the end of days, God will gather up our life's work and measure its eternal value. Judgment may be favorable, for a crop worth preserving. Or it may involve destruction. This idea of judgment doesn't sit easily with most people today. Because tolerance and acceptance are two of our society's highest and most rewarded values, we often operate with an "I'm OK, you're OK" mentality. But according to Revelation, God does not.

Scripture reminds us time and again that we are NOT okay. We are sinners with a tendency to rebel against the Lord. And because he is holy and just, evil has no place in his presence. According to this text, then, God is also in the messy business of straining and separating people and their deeds. Does the abuse, violence, manipulation, and hurt in the world trouble you? Praise God that there will come a time when all that has been inflicted on us—and all that we inflict on others—will be strained out and cast away from God's presence. In his eternal kingdom, only the good will remain.

All of us deserve judgment. But those who trust in Jesus can rest assured that he has already endured the "winepress of God's wrath" for us. This is the victory of the cross. This is the hope to which we are called. Praise God for his harvest of justice and hope!

Looking forward in Faith

Pastor Patti