

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

DATED MATERIALS

OCTOBER 2023

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ORGANIZATION

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Permit No. 10  
Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



# *The Eagle*

October 2023

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

Traditional

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

[www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Girl Scouts #6300 Annual Badge Ceremony 1:30pm Adult Basketball 5:30pm	<b>2</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>3 RAISE RIGHT DUE</b> Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11am Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>4</b> BSF 9:30am Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>5</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting Class 3pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>6</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>7</b> <b>FALL CRAFT BAZAAR 9am</b> Private Event 11:30am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>8 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD KICKOFF</b> 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	<b>9</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>10 EAGLE DEADLINE</b> Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>11</b> BSF 9:30am Small Group 1pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>12</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Home School Acting Class 3pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>13</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>14</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Vi's Open House 11am Traditional Worship 4pm <b>St. John's Got Talent! Rehearsal 7pm</b> Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>15</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am <b>New Member Class 12pm</b> Adult Basketball 5:30pm	<b>16</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>17</b> Quilters 9:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>18</b> BSF 9:30am Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>19</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting Class 3pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>20</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>21</b> Private Event 9am Traditional Worship 4pm <b>St. John's Got Talent! 7pm</b> Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>22</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am <b>QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 12PM</b> Adult Basketball 5:30pm	<b>23</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Respect Life 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>24</b> Quilters 9:30am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>25</b> BSF 9:30am Small Group 1pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>26</b> Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>29</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>28</b> Trunk or Treat! 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>29</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:30pm	<b>30</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>31</b> Quilters 9:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm				



## MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

### Accessibility Project

Given in memory of **Paul and Alice Katterhenrich** by Beth Katterhenrich.

Given in memory of **Phyllis Herbert** by Raymond and Karen Bentley.

Given in memory of **Chris Schultz** by Pat Marie.

Given in memory of **Susan Landerer** by Pat Marie.

Given in memory of **Craig Sonnen** by Connie Sonnen.

Given in memory of **Fritz Buck** by Beth Katterhenrich.

### Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Carol Krieger** by Marilyn Wright; and Paul and Mitzie Schemrich.

Given in memory of **Fritz Buck** by Todd and Dawn Ebert; and Diane Slagle.

### Youth Memorial Fund

Given in honor of **Laurie Pecuch and Diana Imbrock** by Beth Katterhenrich.

### Mexico Mission Trip

Given in honor of **Laurie Pecuch and Diana Imbrock** by Beth Katterhenrich.

### Wycliffe Bible Translators, Stephen and Rachel Katterhenrich outreach

Given in memory of **Paul and Alice Katterhenrich** by Beth Katterhenrich.

### Memorial Fund, Music Ministry

Given in memory of **Fritz Buck** by Beth Katterhenrich.



To everyone at St. John's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church,

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone for their hand in helping us. From all the great food from the Bereavement Team to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The prayer shawls were beautiful and will be forever cherished.

Thank you, love, and prayers,

Tracy and Terry Keffer and family.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**An Open House**  
will be held on  
**Saturday, October 14, 2023,**  
from 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
in the Family Life Center  
to celebrate the  
**90th birthday of Vi Davis.**

Only your presence is requested.  
**No gifts, please.**

## GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S

**We are very grateful for your generous and continued financial support of our ministries!**

### **How to give to St. John's:**

1. Give during worship services.
2. Mail your offering to the church – 3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio 43123.
3. Send through your financial institution – they will send a check directly to the church on your behalf.
4. Visit St. John's website – [www.stjohnsgc.org](http://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 Vanco Mobile (formerly 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.



## 2024 WILL BE ST. JOHN'S 175<sup>th</sup> 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 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, please let Pastor Seth or Pastor Patti know as soon as possible.

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!



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.

### **Back to School Bash Mission Silent Auction**



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!  
Your generous support of our silent auction yielded over \$1,200.00! That's enough to send almost a **whole** individual to be the hands and feet of Jesus to one of St. John's short-term mission experiences!

Thank you to all who contributed, bid on, and bought items; we appreciate you!

Thank you for your continued love, prayers and donations as we prepare for next year's mission.

### **SJYM, St. John's Youth Ministries, continued.**

room as long as you like, or sign-out items that will assist you during worship. The items you can use (or sign out) include fidget busters, coloring books, crayons, markers, books, and Bibles. Please return them after worship. The room also has soft lighting, noise cancelling headphones, a white noise machine, weighted blankets, and special seating. *All are welcome!*

#### **MORE OPPORTUNITIES...**

- **Sundays at 9:30am...classes for all ages, including a parenting group** that meets in 103-104 with Amy Wanner. Need some encouragement? This is a great place to be on Sunday mornings.
- **Children's Church**, led by Jenn Czaplicki, meets during the sermon time at 11am Contemporary Worship. Children love learning Bible Verses, singing Bible songs, and hearing messages that help them grow in faith!
- <https://www.stjohnsgc.org/children-youth-ministries/>



## 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!*

## **SJYM** **St. John's Youth Ministries**

**Adventure Club (ages 4 through 4th grade) and Faith Trek (grades 5 - 6) meet weekly on Thursday nights, 5:45 - 7:15pm.** The greeter's table opens at 5:30pm. Suggested donation for the evening meal is \$3. 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 meet weekly on Wednesday nights, 7 - 8:30pm.** Learn more about it by connecting with our 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! Contact Diana or sign up in the confirmation room.**

*October 7*

*All of October*

*November 5*

*November 19*

*December 2*

*Fall Mission Bazaar*

*Operation Christmas Child*

*Veterans' Luncheon*

*Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction*

*Family Bike Assembly*

**THE SELAH ROOM** is a space where people of all ages can pause and pray with their minds, voices, and hands. It's a safe, calm place set up in room 101. At any time on a Sunday morning, children and parents can go to this space to pause, stop, listen, breathe, and praise. You're welcome to stay in the

*continued on next page*



## Mexico Musings ☺



This year I was paired with two niños who could not have been more different. César has strong emotions, and at times was very quiet and at others very talkative. The planned activities were always interesting to him, and more than once I saw him taking in the moment, arms outstretched and a smile on his face. When we shared affirmations on the last day, he thanked me for the time I spent with him.

Jaziel didn't exhibit many emotions but was constantly making jokes. He participated in some of the activities, but quickly tired of them, or avoided them in favor of spending time alone or with his caretakers. He was older than César, and, when it came time for affirmations, he began with "It's as though I've known you since Monday," and proceeded to tell the most fantastic story of our meeting, involving hail and lightning on a soccer field along with attacking dinosaurs.

While both experienced the week differently, they still answered the following question the same way: Are you glad to have come here? Yes. They told me of life back home, where they can't go outside as much, where they don't have as clear a sky or room to breathe. And it reminded me of the rarity of safe places in this world.

This is something we all can do better at. How often do we make a safe space for those around us? How often do we listen and let others breathe? How often do we provide this for ourselves? Do we take it all in, arms open wide? Do we have the confidence to step outside and spend time alone? Or to allow others that courtesy?

Mexico was an opportunity to be safe for those whose lives may not always consist of safety. It was a chance to listen and to learn, and to be an example of compassion. By no means did I do this perfectly – who of us ever do? But it didn't go unnoticed. As I saw in César and Jaziel, all of us need a break sometimes, need reminded of the beauty of creation and the reality of compassion within our hearts. Whatever our differences - in personality or background, or interests, or religion, and more - we can still connect through God's spirit of rest and love found in patience and in listening to one another.

¡Gloria a Dios!

Alec Stenerson

## **It's October and OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Kicks Off!**

St. John's has partnered with Samaritan's Purse to send The Gospel to the ends of the earth through gift-filled boxes! Please consider filling a shoe box with items such as school supplies, soap and a covered plastic soap dish, toothbrush with a holder, quality pens, flashlights with batteries, new short-sleeved shirts (with no writing on them). *Avoid lotions, war related items, and items that can melt.* Also, please include a \$10 donation to cover the cost of shipping the box.

If you are not able to pack your own box, we will have a donation tub for items in the Link starting on October 4th. Monetary donations are also accepted!

**\*\*Interested in building a shoebox online? Please visit this website to find more information:**  
[samaritanspurseg.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurseg.org/buildonline)

Please contact Justin, Beth, Brayden, or Addy Gottshall with questions at 740-360-2752.



## 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](mailto:dimrock@stjohnsgc.org) for more information.



For details, contact Laurie at [lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 614-875-2314. **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, October 14 at 9am  
and Tuesday, October 24 at 6pm  
in rooms 103-4.**

## OWLS EVENT — OCTOBER 20, 2023



The Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) meet the third Friday of every month. We start off with a potluck lunch at 11:30 am and we invite speakers for our program after lunch. Our goal is to offer programs geared to those that affect us as individuals as well as a community.

We are very pleased that Mayor Ike Stage and BJ Roach will be presenting interesting details about Beulah Park from a community park to a horse racing track and finally to a living development. The Park has had a very interesting history for the past 100 years and they will be sharing it with us. Hope you plan to join us!

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 11:15 am so we can open the meeting at 11:30 am. Use the salmon sheet 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!

Please think about donating your leftover Halloween candy to the Quilters for the Christmas bags. If you need some leftover candy to donate, you can usually find good bargains early the next day after Beggars' Night. We make 100 bags for the children at the Grove City Food Pantry. It takes two tables full of candy to fill the Christmas bags. The bags hold crayons, pencils, pens, sturdy combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Ohio wildlife items, stuffed toys, and most importantly, candy. If you wish, feel free to make a healthy substitution for the candy.

We still need sturdy combs, erasers, glue sticks, small notepads, nail clippers, etc. You do not need to donate 100 items. We accept any number of items that will fit in our 10"x10" bags. Place your Christmas bag donations in the Quilters' cabinet in the Link. Thank you to the many who have already given donations to the children. Thank you for caring.



This year, we have expanded our quilt making and donations. We have donated smaller, personal quilts to Maryhaven. Maryhaven is an addiction recovery and mental health center. We have given quilts to various people we felt needed and would like a quilt, also. Mary Young is donating two of her red, white, and blue quilts to the Veterans' Dinner. Linda Vozel just finished hand quilting a bed quilt that was made by Diana Imbrock's sister and donated to the Quilters. You will be able to buy this hand-stitched quilt at the Christmas sale.

Please come and visit our small group! We will help you if you have an interest in learning the different aspects of quilting. We have empty chairs and sewing machines just waiting for your willing spirit. If you do not want to do quilting, another activity is preparing canceled stamps for the veteran hospitals' hand rehab activities.

The Quilters usually meet every Tuesday in rooms 103-104 from 9:30am-1:30pm or thereabouts as we come and go as we please. All materials are provided.

With your caring for the children and your donations for the Christmas bags, we can continue to help the children who need our compassion and understanding.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive  
in the Family Life Center on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 from 12pm to 6 pm.**



To schedule your appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS  
or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and use sponsor code: **StJohnsGC**



Clearly she is not interested in defending herself. She's got nothing left. All she has is love for her daughter and desperate hope in Jesus. The passage does not tell us whether Jesus chuckled at her good comeback, but it's clear that she has totally won him over. He says "for saying that, you can go—the demon has left your daughter."

Notice how the first thing he says is "you can go." He releases her. He sets her free. Just as the woman holds onto nothing but Jesus, Jesus will not hold her to anything. Except himself. And he is *love*. It's done. The battle is over. Now it's just a joyful reunion with her daughter. And it's all in response to her letting Jesus *be Jesus*. Her faith holds onto nothing but him.

So it's only by God's grace that we can call ourselves "God's people." Thank God my life is not based on God being fair to me! By rights, you and I are the outsiders: we're the Gentile dogs. But still, he gives us eternal life in his mighty presence. How can we come into his presence, except on our knees in gratitude?

The most awesome thing about this passage, is that we mortal human beings get a glimpse of God in Jesus Christ, struggling within himself. Divine justice tells him this woman has no right to anything. Of course she doesn't! She's a sinner. He has made no special promises to her. But here she is, making no claim for herself, standing in front of him, begging for some crumbs she knows she does not deserve. And here in this little passage, we get a foretaste of God's final decision, that changes everything: He will not refuse her. His mercy wins out over his justice. *He is who He is*.

It all comes to a head when he hung on that cross for us. There, God took the justice we deserve on himself, and gave us all his forgiveness.

I believe that many times in my life, God has shown me that I have no right to expect anything from him based on who I am. It hits me, what a dog I truly am. It's always a painful realization. But I can thank God, even for those "knock-downs." I hope I always approach God with true humility, knowing that everything I have in this life, I have by his grace alone.

I also hope that you are as surprised as I am, that whenever we come to him begging for crumbs, there he is, saying "This is my body." Giving us everything he has from his table.

Pastor Seth

## VETERANS LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE

Dear Veterans,

In honor of Veterans, your service, and your sacrifice for our country, you and a guest are invited to St. John's Annual Veterans Luncheon. This event will take place in the Family Life Center on **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 12:15pm.**

If you are a Veteran planning to attend, please mark the salmon sheet in your bulletin or call the church at 614-875-2314 to reserve your seats **by October 22, 2023.** Thank you for your service.



## **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
Michael Esposito Facilities 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
Tom Lang Facilities Manager	614-875-2314
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
Gini Rogers Interim Youth Director ginidrogers@gmail.com	614-875-2314
David Shrum Contemporary Music Leader	614-875-2314
Karen Whyte, Librarian barnowl@iwaynet.net	614-878-9392

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



*Our Christian Sympathy  
is extended to*

The family and friends of **Jane Woodgeard**,  
sister-in-law of Bill Woodgeard,  
who died on August 30, 2023.

The family and friends of **Walter Roth**,  
father of Susan Koehler,  
who died on September 8, 2023.

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

**The article deadline for the NOVEMBER  
Eagle is OCTOBER 10TH.**  
Email announcements & articles to  
**secretary@stjohnsgc.org**  
or leave a handwritten copy in the church office.

**The QUARTERLY  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
will follow 11am services on Sunday,  
OCTOBER 22.**  
Please plan to attend.

**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

October 2023

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3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio  
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Letter from the Pastor

*Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely." But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging." Then Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel." But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, "Lord, help me!" Jesus responded, "It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters' table." "Dear woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." And her daughter was instantly healed. [Matthew 15:21-28]*

You've got to love the woman in this gospel passage. I'd say it's one of the few times when someone throws Jesus off balance. I know that sounds crazy: a human being can throw God off balance! But Jesus clearly gets a kick out of it.

The woman is showing this bare-bones faith. She is a Gentile, an outsider. She knows she has no right to ask anything of the Jewish Messiah, Jesus.

But then we remember who flocked to Jesus. It tended to be the outsiders—the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the social rejects, a motley crew of disciples—who embraced him. The majority of his own people (comfortable insiders) rejected him. It was people like the gentile woman in this passage, who knew they didn't have a leg to stand on in front of God...these became his followers.

Those who considered themselves *insiders* were put off by Jesus. He didn't fit their expectations. He did not do what the insiders thought he should be doing. That's a good warning for us.

I look at the crazy world today, and I'm very sure of what *should be* happening. But then I look to Jesus, and I realize: God probably has different ideas than I do. I, for example, think everyone should just stop sinning. Jesus reminds me that God doesn't sit around wishing people would clean up their acts. He jumped into the mess. He *sacrificed himself* to save sinners.

So, that means that if I get on board with what God is doing today, maybe I'll have to sacrifice many of my certainties. If I'm on God's team in the world today, maybe it means that *I am called to be the outsider*. Instead of looking for security in my own opinions, or in what other people think of me, I'll have to find my security in God.

You see it in how the Canaanite woman puts herself completely at Jesus' mercy. When Jesus calls her a gentile dog, she not only accepts the insult, but without flinching, she turns it into a brassy comeback: "Yes sir, I might be a dog—but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."