

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

DATED MATERIALS

NOVEMBER 2023

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ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 10
Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

NOVEMBER 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
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS Traditional Worship 8:15am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Veterans Dinner 12pm	6 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	7 RAISE RIGHT DUE VOTING—ALL DAY Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm (off-site)	1 BSF 9:30am Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	2 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Adv. Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	3 Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	4 GCHS Marching Guard 8am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
12 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am Internship Committee 11:30am Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	13 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	14 Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	15 BSF 9:30am Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	16 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	17 Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am AA 8:30pm	18 GCHS Marching Guard 8am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
19 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am CHILI COOK-OFF AND DESSERT AUCTION 12pm Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	20 BSF Leaders 9:30am (Zoom) Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	21 Eagle Mailing Team 9am BSF 9:30am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	22 Women's Chorale 6pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7pm Chancel Choir 7:45pm	23 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	24 Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	25 Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
26 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am Private Event 12:30pm SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REMEMBRANCE 2pm Saddles n Such 4-H 5:30pm Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	27 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Respect Life 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	28 Quilters 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm				



Shoebox Gift Suggestions

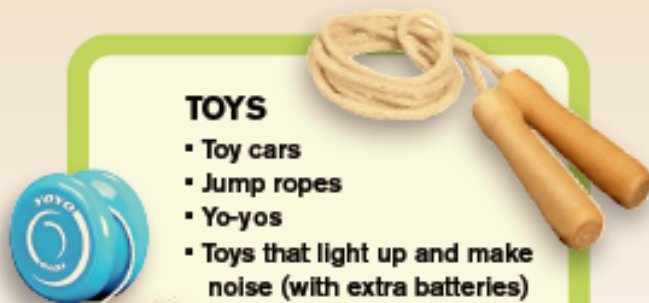
"WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)



DO NOT INCLUDE

candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT [SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/disclosure).

There's only a couple more weeks left to get your shoeboxes filled! We have an opportunity to share God's love with children all over the world and everyone can help! Here's how:



1. **Fill a shoe box with toys, school supplies, and personal care items** (see the posters hanging around the church for ideas). Don't forget the \$10 to help with shipping.
2. **Bring in one or two items to go toward filling a box.** Just place these items in the donation tub in the link.
3. **Build a shoebox online** by visiting <https://sampur.se/46hDaKb> and click on the Operation Christmas Child link. You will find the "Build a Shoebox" link here. You can also use the QR code.

Don't forget to pray for the children and their families to experience and grow in God's love as they respond to the Gospel that is presented at the shoebox events around the world.

Please contact Justin, Beth, Brayden and Addy with any questions 740-360-2752.
Deadline to bring in items is next Sunday, **November 12th**. Thank you!



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**

1

SHOEBOX

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4

PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2

"WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5

DONATE \$10 PER BOX

A donation of \$10 per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3

OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6

DROP OFF

Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.



St. John's Youth Ministries, continued

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 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!



Two great ways to love God's children at Christmas!

Operation Christmas Child: Fill a box, in person or online, for a child in need of God's love and care!
(See the posters around church for more info.)

The Bike Project: As a family, join us in the FLC, December 2 from 2-4, to assemble a bike for a local foster child. Bikes provide exercise, therapy, and a sweet Christmas gift for the child!
(See the trifold at the entrances for more info.)

Be Jesus with skin on for the children of the world this Christmas!

Annual Bike Project

Once again, St. John's is pairing up with The Buckeye Ranch to supply bikes to children in need within central Ohio. Corban Allman is heading up the project this year, and our goal is 25 bikes with helmets.

You may sponsor
a fourth of a bike for **\$25**,
a half of a bike for **\$50**,
a full bike for **\$100**,
or help purchase a helmet for **\$10**.

Questions:
Contact Corban Allman at
corbana09@gmail.com
or Diana Imbrock at
dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org

Donation envelopes are located at one of the church's entrances (available October 15th).
Envelopes must be returned by December 3rd. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Thank you for giving kids something fun to ride at Christmas!



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! **Adventure Club and Faith Trek DO NOT MEET on Nov. 23rd. We will meet all the other Thursdays of November, including Nov. 30th.**

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. **Explorers and Energizers DO NOT MEET on Nov. 22nd. We meet all other Wednesdays in November, including Nov. 29th.**

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 28	Trunk of Treat (lead games)
All of November	Operation Christmas Child
November 5	Veterans' Luncheon
November 19	Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction
December 2	Family Bike Assembly





Thank you for continuing to pray for and support Missions!

We are planning a mission trip to be with our precious children this summer 2024!

If you have a heart for the children of Mexico and sharing the Good News with our brothers and sisters in Christ, come join the 2024 Mexico Mission Family!

Mission dates are July 19th through July 29th, 2024.

Contact Diana Imbrock with questions or to sign up.

Hello St. John's family,

My name is Lukas Althoff, and I am 11 years old. This year was my first mission trip and first time joining the Mexico Mission Family. I have always wanted to go on the Mexico mission trip since my mom started going when I was 4 years old. When I first learned I was getting the opportunity to go this year, I was super excited, but as it got closer I became really nervous. I knew God had a plan, and I wanted to share with you about my week at Rancho Genesis with my 5-year-old niño, Enrique.

On the first day Enrique was uncomfortable around me and only wanted to be around the other kids from the orphanage. The second day we did water games, and by that evening Enrique started to say a few words to me at the campfire. On the third day we got to swim in the pool and he asked me to take and hold him in the big kids pool, which was a huge improvement in his trust with me in just two short days. Later we went to a concert and fair. During the fair Enrique would ask for my help to get him food, play games with him, and so much more.

On the fourth day we played some games in a mud pit. Enrique pushed me towards the mud pit and threw mud at me all while giggling with such a big smile. Later we went to the beach where he asked me to make him a kite and gave me a big hug when I handed it to him. The weather was perfect! It was extremely windy that day, and we were able to fly the kite easily for at least an hour. Then we went into the water and caught a few waves while riding the boogie boards. On our last full day together we started with arts and crafts. I made a bracelet for Enrique and he surprised me with one as well. At our evening affirmation campfire, a translator helped us share stuff about our week with one another, and Enrique expressed how much fun he had all week with me, especially playing darts at the fair. I told him he was the number one niño in my heart.

The following morning we had a short time together eating breakfast and then saying our "God-byes" before leaving camp. After traveling for a couple hours we unexpectedly ran into the niños at a rest stop. I immediately jumped up, got out of the van, and gave Enrique another huge hug. I was so excited to see him again, but knew it was going to be hard to part ways because I was already missing him.

This week in Mexico with my niño and Mexico mission family was beyond anything I could have imagined. It helped me to be more patient with others and strengthened my faith and relationship with God so much. Thank you everyone for all your prayers, donations, and support to help make this trip possible. I pray that God will call me back to Mexico soon, and that one day I'll get to see Enrique again.

Love,
Lukas Althoff and the Mexico Mission Family





A SPECIAL SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REMEMBRANCE will be held on Sunday, November 26th at 2pm.

This is a special worship service set aside for family or friends who have had loved ones pass away this last year. A fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the worship service in the Family Life Center.

To my dear St. John's family, my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Rancho Genesis in Baja California, Mexico. I was honored to be called by God to return for my fourth time after being away for five years. I was so excited to be able to connect with the niños again and to see all that had changed at the new camp that they hadn't even broken ground on yet during my last trip in 2018. This year God also laid it on our hearts to have our own son, Lukas, join the Mexico mission family, too. I was a bit nervous about how that would impact the mission, but was trusting that God had a plan and everything would work out in His glory.



What an incredible week we had with our 21 kids from an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. God paired me up with Kimberly, a sweet 9-year-old girl who was there with her 10 year old brother, while Lukas was paired up with an adventurous 5-year-old boy, Enrique. Kimberly and I made an instant connection which took me by surprise. In past years my niños have always been a little more hesitant to trust a stranger from another land who doesn't speak very much of their native language. I wouldn't expect anything different after all that these kids have been through in their short lives. However, this time was amazingly different.

Kimberly always wanted to be near me, play, walk together, and hold hands. She even opened up to me verbally although much of the time I had to ask someone to help me translate. We enjoyed games of UNO, making bracelets, singing around the campfire, swimming in the pool and ocean, and playing all of these amazing VBS/camp games while learning about God.

The only time Kimberly seemed a bit reserved was on our final day together when we got to a game they called "human foosball." Imagine a rectangle about 15 feet wide by 25 feet long surrounded by 4-foot-tall sheets of plywood. There were PVC pipes that slid side-to-side on metal poles. We had to hold on to the PVC pipes at all times while sliding side-to-side and trying to kick a soccer ball into the opponent's goal. You had to do all of that while being sprayed with water, eventually turning the dirt bottom into a muddy mess. Kimberly watched from the side during our first match as she expressed no interest and didn't seem to want to join in. Part way through the match, out of nowhere, she came running in and traded out with someone else so she could be right next to me. We worked together with the rest of our team, laughing, getting wet, and getting extremely muddy, but we had so much fun. We did end up winning which wasn't so bad either. Nonetheless, it was just great to see her jump into something she wasn't so sure about and have fun.

We had such an amazing week together and truly connected. It never ceases to amaze me how God's love transcends everything, and it doesn't need a language to understand. I was honored to be able to be God's hands and feet, to witness not only the spiritual growth in my niña, Kimberly, but to see how this wonderful experience affected my own son, Lukas, and his own relationship with God, too. It is my hope that the love they felt from perfect strangers reinforces the never-ending love our Father in heaven has for all of us, and a reminder that we aren't in this alone. We can often rely on others to help us, but no matter what, God will **always** be there for us, to help and guide us, through the good times and the bad. He is our way, our truth, and our life. Thank you for all of your love, prayers and support for our niños and our Mexico mission family. Lukas, myself, and the rest of the family are eternally grateful and honored to have been a part of this incredible mission!

God's continued blessings to you!
Jill Althoff and the Mexico Mission Family



by ShopWithScrip

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](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!

Christmas Cookie Sale Coming....

On Saturday, December 16th from 9am – noon in rooms 103-104, we will be holding our annual **Christmas Cookie and Goodie Sale**. We are asking for **homemade items only**.

**Again this year, you will be able to choose your own cookies for your platter.
We will have prepackaged plates also if you would prefer those.**

Baked goods can be dropped off by **8:30am on Friday, December 15th** in the Family Life Center Kitchen. If you don't want to bake but want to help in another way, a monetary donation to the Kitchen Fund would be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to help with the sale on Saturday, December 16th.

If you are available Saturday, please mark the salmon insert in the bulletin or you can call Sue Sutton, 614-539-9544 or Suzie Brace, 614-871-3201. **Proceeds from our sale will go to the Kitchen Fund.**

The Chancel Choir is looking for singers for the Advent/Christmas season.

For anyone who enjoys singing but may not be able to commit to weekly choir practices all year, this is a great opportunity to add your voice to the Christmas celebration.

Interested parishioners would need only to practice with the choir in mid-November and December in order to sing with the choir during Advent and Christmas. **We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Sanctuary.**

Please see Music Director Mark Meuser or any choir member if you think you may be interested.

You would be warmly welcomed.

The Mitten Trees are returning November 5th through December 3rd!

Please help fill the trees with mittens, gloves, warm hats, earmuffs, scarves, and socks for all ages.

All items need to be new with tags or homemade.

After December 3rd the items will be taken to the Grove City Food Pantry, where they will be distributed to anyone in need in our local community. Please contact Ellen Previts at 614-345-8576 if you have any questions.

Thank you for helping our neighbors stay warm!

Women's Ministry



Elizabeth Circle
Contact
Sherry Nighbert
614-581-1436

Sarah Circle
Contact
Wilma Phillips
614-875-7931

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

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.

Join us each week during the Sunday School Hour!

We would like to welcome all children ages 2 and up who are not already attending to join us during the Sunday School Hour from **9:30-10:30am each Sunday.**

Parents are encouraged to join one of the adult classes. There's even one that focuses on parenting related topics.

If you have any questions, please see Tim Allman or a member of the youth staff. We look forward to seeing you!!



7th Annual Mission Fall Bazaar: another success!!! Woohoo!!!

Thanks to all who provided baked goods, stopped by to support our craft vendors, and ate hot dogs, shredded chicken sandwiches, etc. at our concessions. Our vendors felt welcomed and appreciated the kindness extended to all. Thank you for continuing to support missions.



Over \$1,400 was raised!



OWLS EVENT — November 17, 2023

The Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS) would love to see you at our November 17th meeting. It's the time of year we share what we are thankful for and we have so much. God's blessings are bountiful.

We are very pleased and honored to welcome Grove City's new police chief, Eric Scott. He started his police career as a part-time officer for the Village of Harrisburg. Scott joined the Grove City Division of Police as a reserve officer in 1998 and was promoted to Chief of Police in April 2023. Grove City is growing and growing and growing which means our problems will probably increase as well. Come and hear our Chief of Police Scott's message about the changes, etc. in our wonderful home city.

You are invited to come join us for lunch before the program. OWLS will provide fried chicken. We are very happy to tell you Debbie Abbitt's famous meat loaf is back!!!! Bring a covered dish and join your friends for a delicious lunch and a wonderful program.



We ask you to arrive around 11:15am so we can open the meeting at 11:30am. Use Sunday's salmon sheet in the bulletin to make your reservation. This is a big help for our planning committee. You can also call the office or Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002. Hope to see you there!



COME ONE! COME ALL!

To the annual Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction on Sunday, November 19th, right after the late service.

We will be tasting chili and voting on the best St. John's recipe. Bid on some amazing desserts created by the incredible bakers right here in our midst. It's a perfect time to get those much-needed Thanksgiving treats without all the work! All donations and auction monies will go to support short-term missions.

If you would like to enter your award-winning chili in the contest or create a dessert for the auction, please watch the bulletin for details or contact Diana at dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org. Come join us for a fun-filled, tummy-filled afternoon!

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, November 11 at 9am and Tuesday, November 28 at 6pm in rooms 103-4.

Thanks to your giving hearts, our collection of items for the Christmas bags is growing. This year we are donating 100 bags to the Grove City Food Pantry at the "Purple Door" Methodist Church. You may donate any leftover, wrapped Halloween or other wrapped candy or healthy, wrapped snacks as long as its expiration date is in 2024. **Remember, don't eat that leftover Halloween candy. Donate it.** We need two tables full of candy to fill the 100 Christmas bags.

We need sturdy combs and any small items appropriate for a child to add to the bags. The Grove City Family Dentistry on Columbus Street is once again donating dental care items for each of the 100 bags. The goals of 100 boxes of Crayola crayons, 100 plush toys, 100 toothcare items and 100 pencils have been reached. Please place your donation in the Quilters' cabinet in the Link. If the cabinet is blocked by equipment, please place your donation on the counter top. The bags will be filled and delivered on December 5th, 2023. Your help on December 5th in filling the bags will be welcomed and appreciated. The Christmas bags will be given to the children as a gift of Christian love and compassion.

We, once again, thank Linda Vozel for providing most of the material and all the woman power in cutting and sewing the 100 Christmas bags. We need a volunteer to help string the bags with the draw strings. Anyone got a free Tuesday morning?

We have hand-knotted and machine-quilted quilts of various colors and sizes and one hand-quilted, full-sized quilt for sale. Stop by any Tuesday to admire and select a quilt. Also, look for our quilt sale in the Link during the cookie sale in December. The proceeds will be given to St. John's and the Grove City area causes. Most of the unsold quilts will be given to children's charities and the Bed Brigade. As we always remind you, our Lutheran quilts keep you warm and look pretty on a bed.

Would you like to learn the art of quilting? We have friendship waiting for you.

Please note, there will not be a Quilter's meeting on November 21st, 2023. We will be doing all those turkey day preparations instead quilting.

This Thanksgiving, we are truly thankful for your support of our ministries. You respond to our many requests for donations. The Quilters thank you for you and your concern and understanding for others.



Quilters

We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Hi church family! My name is Megan Grossman and I am so excited to serve as your new Lay Ministry Director. I love St. John's and it truly feels like God has called me to this position.



For those of you who don't know me I started coming to St. John's in 2005 when I met my now husband of 12 years Nick and we have 4 beautiful children, Noah, Emma (9), Abigail(7) and Hannah(1).

We truly love St. John's, we have gotten married here, had our son's funeral, and we have had all of our girls baptized here. It has always felt very special to us and has always felt like our home away from home. I am excited to get to know you all better and work with you in all of the wonderful ministries of St. John's.



Recruiting New Volunteers for Mount Carmel Grove City

Mount Carmel Grove City is seeking new community volunteers to support various areas of the hospital. Volunteers typically serve once per week, for a 2-4 hour shift. Volunteering is a great way to stay active, find fellowship with others, and support your community. There are a wide range of volunteer roles such as directing visitors around the hospital, welcoming patients for appointments, supporting department staff behind the scenes, and more. There are numerous ways to contribute while accommodating your personal talents, interests, and schedule.

Interested individuals should complete a volunteer application on our website:
www.mountcarmelhealth.com/volunteering.

Please call or email Libby Ballentine, Operations Manager for Volunteer Services, with any questions: 614-204-9754 or libby.ballentine@mchs.com.

TIPS FOR HANDLING THE HOLIDAYS WHEN GRIEVING

1. DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN HANDLE COMFORTABLY AND LET FAMILY AND FRIENDS KNOW. Can I handle the responsibility of the family dinner, etc. or shall I ask someone else to do it? Do I want to talk about my loved one or not? Shall I stay here for the holidays or go to a completely different environment?
2. MAKE SOME CHANGES IF THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE FOR YOU. Open presents Christmas Eve instead of Christmas morning. Vary the timing of gift giving. Have dinner at a different time or place. Let the children take over decorating the house, the tree, baking, and food preparation, etc.
3. RE-EXAMINE YOUR PRIORITIES: GREETING CARDS, HOLIDAY BAKING, DECORATING, PUTTING UP A TREE, FAMILY DINNER, ETC. Do I really enjoy doing this? Is this a task that can be shared?
4. CONSIDER DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR SOMEONE ELSE. Donate a gift in the memory of your loved one. Donate money you would have spent on your loved one as a gift to charity. Adopt a needy family for the holidays. Invite a guest (foreign student, senior citizen) to share festivities.
5. RECOGNIZE YOUR LOVED ONE'S PRESENCE IN THE FAMILY. Burn a special candle to quietly include your loved one. Hang a stocking for your loved one in which people can put notes with their thoughts or feelings. Listen to music especially like by the deceased. Look at photographs.
6. IF YOU DECIDE TO DO HOLIDAY SHOPPING, MAKE A LIST AHEAD OF TIME AND KEEP IT HANDY FOR A GOOD DAY, OR SHOP ONLINE OR THROUGH CATALOGS.
7. OBSERVE THE HOLIDAYS IN WAYS WHICH ARE COMFORTABLE FOR YOU. There is no right or wrong way of handling holidays. Once you've decided how to observe the time, let others know.
8. TRY TO GET ENOUGH REST – HOLIDAYS CAN BE EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY DRAINING.
9. ALLOW YOURSELF TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS. Holidays often magnify feelings of loss. It is natural to feel sadness. Share concerns, apprehensions, feelings with a friend. The need for support is often greater during holidays.
10. KEEP IN MIND THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY BEREAVED PERSONS IS THAT THEY DO COME TO ENJOY HOLIDAYS AGAIN. THERE WILL BE OTHER HOLIDAY SEASONS TO CELEBRATE.
11. DON'T BE AFRAID TO HAVE FUN. Laughter and joy are not disrespectful. Give yourself and your family members' permission to celebrate and take pleasure in the holidays.

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
Megan Grossman Lay Ministry Leader mgrossman@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 tlang@stjohnsgc.org	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

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to

The family and friends of
Dorothy Wilhide
who passed away on September 30, 2023.

The family and friends of
Bob Swanson
who passed away on October 1, 2023.

The family and friends of
Rosemary Turnbull
who passed away on October 17, 2023.

The family and friends of
Paul Offenburger
Who passed away on October 20, 2023.

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

Congratulations On Your Baptism

Congratulations
to Sean and Kelsie O'Hanlon on the baptism
of their son, **Declan James**,
on Sunday, October 22nd.

Congratulations
to Marian Walsh, Marcus Walsh, and Nicole Jones
for the baptism of **Jay Jones-Walsh**
on Sunday, October 29, 2023.

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

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

November 2023

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

Letter from the Associate Pastor



*"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever."*
Psalm 136:1-3

Dear Disciples of Jesus,

Psalm 136 is one of the great psalms of thanksgiving. The rhythm of praise at the beginning breaks into a full-blown chorus of thanksgiving, celebrating who God is and what he has done for his people. By the end of the psalm, all the people would have joined in the chorus singing and shouting for joy. It's one of my favorites for praising God.

The point is, and is so clearly obvious in this psalm, that the natural state of creation is one of praise and thanksgiving to our Creator. When we give praise, we are only taking up our part of the song. Praise and thanksgiving may actually be our natural language, something we get separated from through the suffering and insecurity we experience in the world. If the hills are alive with the sound of music, shouldn't we be as well?

And yet, there is so much happening in this broken world of ours, war and chaos, famine and floods, fire and earthquakes, hell and heartache. So the psalmist reminds us, even in the midst of the mess, even when we cannot see our way through, the one thing that is for certain – *"THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER"*.

As we remember those who have gone before us whether it be yesterday or years ago, as we celebrate All Saints, and again as we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, perhaps a psalm of thanksgiving would be appropriate as our table prayer, repeating the refrain over and over - *"THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER"*.

May each day, not just a holiday, be reason for us to offer praise and thanks to God, as we live out our lives in grateful praise for all He has given us.

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Patti