

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

DATED MATERIALS

DECEMBER 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 10  
Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



# *The Eagle*

DECEMBER 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
<div> </div>						
<b>3</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Private Event 12pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	<b>4</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Private Event 11am Lunchtime AA 12pm <b>Quilters' Christmas Bags 2pm</b> Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm (off-site) Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>5</b> <b>RAISE RIGHT DUE</b> Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>6</b> BSF 9:30am Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>7</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Christmas Program Rehearsal 5pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>8</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>9</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Private Event 9am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>10 EAGLE DEADLINE</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am <b>Christmas Program</b> <b>Dinner Theater 5pm</b> Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	<b>11</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>12</b> Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>13</b> BSF 9:30am Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>14</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	<b>15</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am Private Event 12pm AA 8:30pm	<b>16</b> <b>Christmas Cookie Sale 9am</b> <b>Christmas Quilt Sale 9am</b> Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>17</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am <b>Christmas Quilt Sale 9am</b> Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am <b>Christmas Kindness 12pm</b> Private Event 12:30pm Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	<b>18</b> Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Sarah Circle 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>19</b> BSF 9:30am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm (off-site)	<b>20</b> Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>21</b> Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>22</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>23</b> Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship 4pm, 6pm, 8pm</b> <b>31</b> Trad. Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5:00pm Men's Discussion Group 6:30pm	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 10am</b> Private Event 11am Lunchtime AA 12pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>26</b> Quilters 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm (off-site)	<b>27</b> Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>28</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>29</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am AA 8:30pm	<b>30</b> Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm



**EAT TO SUPPORT**  
**St John's Lutheran Church Grove City**

**11:00 AM - 8:00 PM**  
**12.05.23**

**City**  
**BARBEQUE**

RSVP: [www.groupraise.com/events/245173](https://www.groupraise.com/events/245173)

**CITY BARBEQUE**  
2261 Stringtown Rd, Grove City

Powered by  
**GroupRaise**

# St Johns Apparel Order Form

T-SHIRT



HOODED SWEATSHIRTS



FULL ZIP HOODED SWEATSHIRT



CREW NECK SWEATSHIRT



PLEASE MARK QUANTITY UNDER EACH DESIRED SIZE

**T-SHIRTS** - YOUTH S - ADULT XL = \$15 / 2XL - 4XL = \$17

	YS	YM	YL	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Red										
Blue										

**HOODED SWEATSHIRT** - YOUTH S - ADULT XL = \$25 / 2XL = \$27 / 3XL, 4XL = \$30

	YS	YM	YL	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Red										
Blue										

**FULL ZIP HOODED SWEATSHIRT** - ADULT S - XL = \$28 / 2XL = \$30 / 3XL, 4XL = \$32

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Red							
Blue							

**CREWNECK SWEATSHIRT** - YOUTH S -ADULT XL = \$20 / 2XL - 4XL = \$25

	YS	YM	YL	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Red										
Blue										

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PRICE: \_\_\_\_\_ PAYMENT METHOD: CASH / CHECK / CARD (ONLINE)

Please add "T-Shirt" to the memo of your check or online giving so we know where the money should go. Order forms should be turned in with your offerings or dropped off in the office by December 3rd.

Proceeds benefit the 2024 Mexico Missions Trip.

# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE

As in previous years, the Sanctuary of St. John's will be filled with the beauty of red poinsettias as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. Each plant will be in a 6.5-inch pot and is available for purchase. The cost of each poinsettia will be \$8.00. You may place an order by sending a completed form along with your payment to the office, or placing it in the offering plate. Make checks payable to St. John's and mark "For Poinsettia Order."

**Orders must be received no later than Friday, December 15th.** The flowers may be taken after our Christmas service on December 25th.

**Please check one:**

☐ **I will be picking my flowers up by December 30th.**

☐ **I wish to donate my flowers to shut-ins.**



Name(s) of person(s) ordering:

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Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ (In case of questions)

Number of poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ \$8.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment (mark one)      Cash ☐      Check ☐

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

(How your names will appear in the service folder - i.e. The Davis Family, or Art and Frieda Davis)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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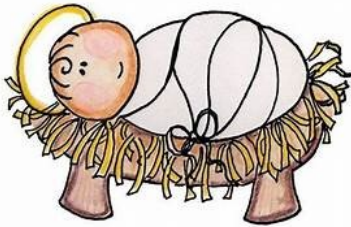


**Relationships are important to us at St. John's!**

*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!*

*Laurie 614-620-2669 and Diana 614-271-5775*



**“Journey to the Manger” books are our ADVENT FAMILY gift to families this Advent Season.** It's packed full of fun activities, devotions for different ages, parent guides, an advent poster, and more. This book will engage the entire family. We passed these books out at Adventure Club and Faith Trek. If you didn't get yours, extras are located on the greeter's table at the Parish House door. Can't locate one? Ask Laurie Pecuch.

**Adventure Club (ages 4 through 4th grade) and Faith Trek (grades 5 - 6) meet weekly on Thursday nights. We take the month of December off. See you again Thursday, January 11th!**

**Explorers and Energizers for grades 7 - 8 and 9 - 12 meet weekly on Wednesday nights. We also take the month of December off. See you again on Wednesday Jan. 10th!**

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES for December include The Bike Project, The Kindness Event, The Mitten Tree, and The Sunday School Children's Program.** We also have weekly opportunities to serve; including Children's Church, acolyting, reading at a worship service, etc. All ages may sign up on the service boards in the confirmation room or talk to Diana Imbrock for more details.

**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.

**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, every Sunday morning. There are also fidget items that can be signed out.

**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!

# 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.

## WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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



Join us for the next meetings on  
**Saturday, December 9 at 9am**  
**and Tuesday, December 26 at 6pm**  
in rooms 103-4.



**"Thank you"** are two little words filled with a lot of love and gratitude. The St. John's Family has been a part of our lives for so long and I am grateful. The family of Robert (Bob) Swanson appreciates your kindness, encouragement, visits, cards, and phone calls, and most of all your friendship. Pastor Seth and Pastor Patti always had just the right words to comfort him. In the last few months, he really looked forward to receiving communion from David and Lisa Stallard. Thank you for taking that extra time to stay and visit. A special thanks to the Bereavement Luncheon Committee for a wonderful meal and time to share memories. You are an awesome group!! Thank you to the members of St. John's. You have generous hearts and caring ways. There's so much to appreciate about you." ~ Bonnie Swanson and family.

**"Thank you"** to my family, my church family, and friends who helped me celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was October 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee did a beautiful job of decorating, and I was really surprised when I came in. Thank you to Betty, Jane, Linda, and Judy for taking care of everything. I've had a good life. The Lord is by my side every day. Thanks also for all the birthday wishes, cards, and gift cards. The best we can give to each other is Love. Sincerely," ~ Vi Davis.

**"Thank you"** to my church family for all for the messages, texts, flowers, and cards. We are both so grateful to be a part of St. John's in Grove City." ~ Gary and Marilyn Smith.

**"I want to thank"** both Pastor Seth and Pastor Patti for their visits to Paul while he was in the nursing home. Special thanks to Pastor Patti for the wonderful and meaningful funeral service. Thank you to all those that provided their time and great food, and to Wilma Phillips for overseeing the luncheon. Thank you to my church family for all the kind words and warm hugs. Sincerely," ~ Andrea and Marc Offenburger.

**"Many thank yous"** to my church family for all the beautiful sympathy cards after the passing of my dad, Walter Roth. Thank you to the Bereavement Ministry for the delicious dinner after the funeral. The time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for all the beautiful shawls for my dad's grandchildren and his sister. Thank you to all the St. John's members with the Meals on Wheels delivery team. My dad enjoyed your Friday visits and deliveries. Thank you to Pastor Seth for coming to visit with Dad and providing him words of comfort and care. The memorial service was greatly appreciated by all." ~ Susan Koehler and family.



## OWLS EVENT — December 15

The Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS) would love to see you at their December 15th meeting. It's a very special time for all of us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many programs during the month of December and families are preparing for their own traditions at home.

The OWLS are also planning a special program for you and your friends to come and be entertained by an accomplished vocalist and flutist. Linda LaFever has performed with numerous bands, including the legendary Les Brown and the Band of Renown and Nelson Riddle, one of America's best-known composers and arrangers. She's no stranger to concert halls and large venues having appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic and Los Angeles Pops Orchestra. AND she has also appeared in nightclubs in Las Vegas, New York City and Chicago.

Hope you mark your calendar, invite friends and come join us for a delicious potluck lunch and wonderful entertainment with old friends and new friends. We ask you to arrive around 11:15 am so we can open the meeting at 11:30 am. You bring a covered dish and the OWLS will provide fried chicken. We are very happy to tell you Debbie Abbitt's famous meat loaf is back!!! Use the salmon sheet in Sunday's 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!



# Quilters

Thank you to everyone for your donations to help fill the 100 Christmas bags to be given to the children whose families use the food pantry at the Grove City Methodist "Purple Door" Church. Many thanks to all who donated the beloved candy and other items for the children. We hope the bags bring a bit of Christian love and joy to the children.

The Quilters wish to thank Grove City Family Dentistry on Columbus Street for the donation of 100 toothbrushes, toothpaste, and flossers for the Christmas bags. These are much appreciated donations. The children will enjoy their child-friendly brushes.

We want to acknowledge the Department of Ohio Wildlife for their donations of the animal booklets and rubber bracelets for the children. The children can learn about the mammals, birds, and fish of Ohio.

Your help will be greatly appreciated in filling the bags on December 5, 2023, in rooms 103-104 from 9:30am until around noon. Please come and see the generosity of our congregation with the mounds of candy and other items for the bags.

The Quilters' Christmas Quilt Sale this year is on December 16 and 17, 2023 during the Christmas Cookie Sale. Quilt-filled tables will be set up in the Link. Most of the quilts are in the range of \$20-\$45. Many of the quilts are made by Mary Young. This year, we will be offering a full-sized, hand-stitched quilt made by Linda Vozel for \$125. Also, Dora Yates has made a nativity grouping we are offering at a silent auction starting at \$35. The proceeds from the sale go to various local charities.

The Quilters thank so many generous people for their time, effort, and resources to make our ministry a success this past year. The Quilters are very appreciative of your caring spirit. If you find you have extra time at home this winter and would like to make a quilt top or a completed quilt to donate to the Bed Brigade or another charity, we can furnish the material, supplies, and encouragement at no cost to you. Call the church to set up a time to make your selection of materials.

The Quilters meet most Tuesdays in rooms 103-104 from 9:30am -1:30pm. Come whenever you can make time. Most of the quilts are sewn with 6" squares and using square knots or machine stitching to tie the layers together. All quilting supplies are provided. There is a chair waiting for you at the hand quilting frame, as well. If you prefer, you may want to cut canceled stamps. Come any time and leave any time you want. We don't punch a timecard. Our last meeting of 2023 will be December 12, 2023.

*Dear God, please help me find the strength to face the days  
when I feel uncertain about the year ahead. Amen.*

**The Quilters wish everyone a Blessed Christmas.**



## VETERANS 2023, continued

We honored 3 St. John's Golden Veterans: Bruce White, Larry Peterson, and Allen Schoch. Mayor Ike Stage presented the Golden Veterans awards along with a very special certificate from the mayor's office. Each was given a beautiful eagle plaque for their services.



Our first honored veteran is Bruce Whyte. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 8, 1943. He went to high school in the Catskills in New York, and received a scholarship from the University of Mississippi, where he graduated. He then enlisted in the military. On an airplane to Vietnam, an officer asked if anyone knew how to type. Bruce raised his hand and was selected to work in an office for a general while in Vietnam. After serving in the Marine Corps, Bruce returned to civilian life, and taught social studies at Hilliard High School. He married Karen Whyte in 1974, and they have one son, Chad. They have been members of St. John's since 1974. Bruce loves drawing and writing children's stories, and is working on a children's novel. His favorite pastime is his grandson, Matthew. Congratulations, Bruce Whyte!

Our second honored veteran is Allen Schoch. Allen was born on September 14, 1937, to Alfred and Carrie Schoch. He grew up on a farm in Grove City. Allen attended Grove City Schools, graduating from Grove City High School in 1955. He served in the Ohio Air National Guard during the Vietnam War from 1960-1968. He made the rank of Sargent. He married Shirley in 1976 and they had 3 sons. He retired from farming in 1997. He has attended St. John's for several years. Congratulations, Allen Schoch!

Our 3rd Honored Veteran is Larry Peterson. Larry was born on July 30, 1945. He graduated from Eastmoor High School and Franklin University. He enlisted in the US Army in 1965 for 6 years and was assigned to Japan for 2 years. He received a National Defense Service Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. He was in the Army Reserves until 1971. He worked in the US Army Security Agency and was a Morse Code Interceptor during the Vietnam War. He worked at AT&T for 30 years. Larry married Marilyn Wells 55 years ago. Together they have 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. They have attended St. John's church since 1973. Congratulations, Larry Peterson!

This program was presented in honor of all of our veterans! A very heartfelt thank you to all our veterans for their sacrifices they have made for all of us and for their service to our country! God bless our veterans!

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 16<sup>th</sup>.** If you are available Saturday, please mark the salmon sheet 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.**



Our **11th Annual Veterans Dinner** was held on Sunday, November 5th, 2023. Approximately 66 Veterans and their family members attended.

Demorest Road American Legion Post 532 presented the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Liliya Polizza, an 8th grader from Our Lady of Perpetual Help, sang a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner! Hunter Thompson, one of St. John's teens and a freshman at Central Crossing High School, did an awesome job of introducing the Color Guard and our Associate Pastor, Patti Morlock, as well as reading an opening prayer. Pastor Patti emceed our program, and she did a wonderful job! St. John's teenagers along with Grove City ROTC served the delicious meal! The Color Guard completed our moving program with the gun salute and "Taps".

In addition to those listed above, a special Thank You goes to:

- ♦ Wilma Phillips for co-chairing and doing an excellent job!
- ♦ Steve Marcum for organizing the American Legion and so many other jobs.
- ♦ Diana Imbrock for organizing our teen servers
- ♦ Laurie Pecuch for doing a wonderful job with our slide presentation.
- ♦ Elaine Bennett; Nick and Megan Grossman; Cindy, Dwight, and Troy Hendrickson; Mistie Clark; Don and Diane Carducci; and all their kitchen helpers!
- ♦ Charlotte Rausch, Susan Koehler, Karen Jersild, and Linda Chenault.
- ♦ Elizabeth Circle and Sarah Circle for baking the delicious pies!
- ♦ Mary Young for making 2 beautiful quilts which were given as a door prizes to Veterans, Bill Woodgeard and Dellno Lewis! Congratulations!!

*...continued on next page*



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.**

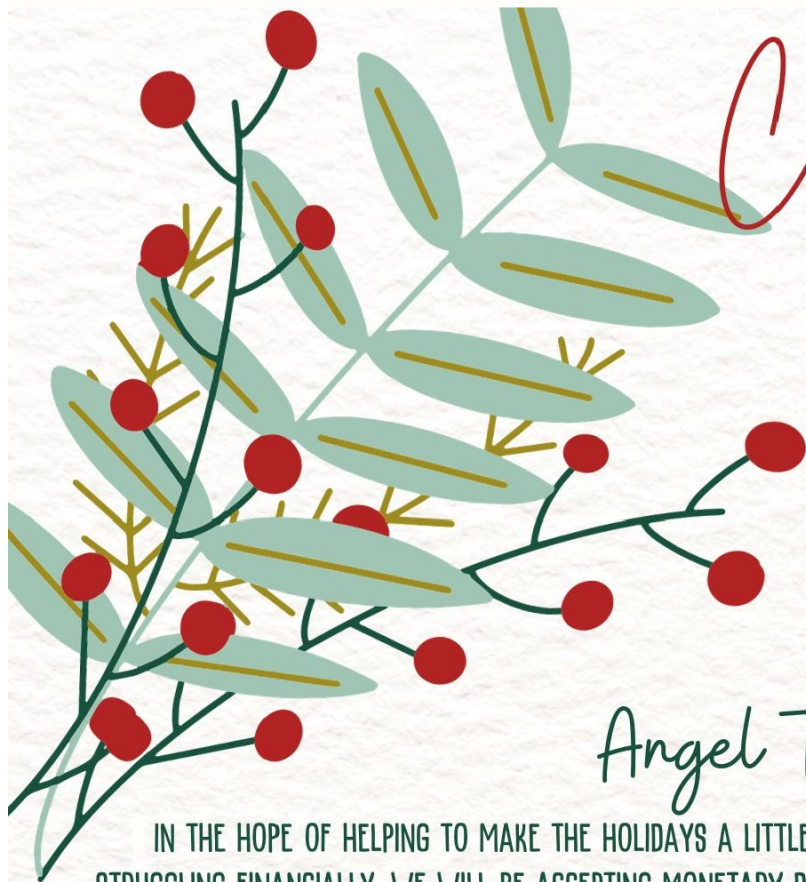


Go to [https://www.kroger.com/  
communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards).

**Our organization number is EY530.**

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





# Christmas season at St. John's

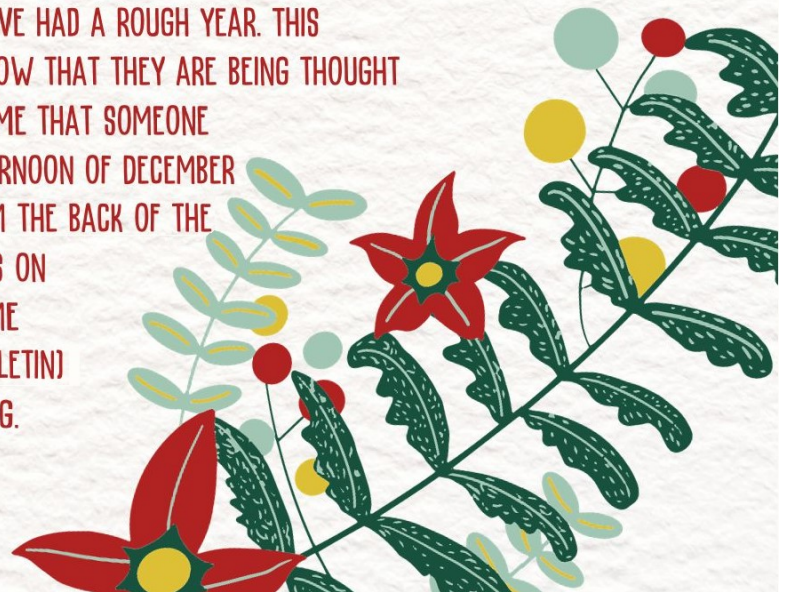
## Angel Trees & Adopt-A-Family:

IN THE HOPE OF HELPING TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER FOR SOME OF OUR FELLOW MEMBERS WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY, WE WILL BE ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY DRIVE. ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH AND IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

WE WILL ALSO BE DOING THE ANGEL TREES AGAIN THIS YEAR. THE ANGEL TREES CONTAIN GIFT ITEMS FOR YOU TO PURCHASE, WRAP AND RETURN TO CHURCH BY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH. THESE GIFTS ARE GOING TO CHILDREN IN OUR CONGREGATION WHO OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH OF A CHRISTMAS. PLEASE WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AMAZING WAYS TO HELP IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN. IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW WITHIN THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPT-A-FAMILY FUNDS OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO MEGAN GROSSMAN AT [MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG](mailto:MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG).

## Christmas Kindness:

ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH, WE WILL BE DELIVERING ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFTS AND SPREADING SOME HOLIDAY CHEER TO OUR OLDER MEMBERS AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE HAD A ROUGH YEAR. THIS INCLUDES A POINSETTIA AND A SMALL GIFT BAG TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE BEING THOUGHT OF AND PRAYED FOR. WE PLAN TO LET THEM KNOW AHEAD OF TIME THAT SOMEONE WILL BE DELIVERING CHRISTMAS KINDNESS TO THEM ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 17TH. EVERYTHING WILL BE PROVIDED AND CAN BE PICKED UP FROM THE BACK OF THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LATE SERVICES ON DECEMBER 17TH. IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP DELIVER SOME HOLIDAY CHEER, MARK THE SALMON SHEET (IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN) OR CONTACT MEGAN GROSSMAN AT [MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG](mailto:MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG). WE HOPE TO DELIVER TO AROUND 50 MEMBERS/HOUSEHOLDS, SO ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED.







# Christmas season at St. John's

## Christmas Dinner Theater:

JOIN US SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 5:00PM FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER. THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WILL FEATURE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND MORE! DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 5PM AND THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DINNER. PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE WHEN THE PROGRAM ENDS. ALL ARE WELCOME, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS! SUGGESTED DINNER DONATION FOR ADULTS IS \$6.00 AND \$5.00 FOR CHILDREN. WE CAN ALWAYS USE EXTRA HANDS TO SET UP AND CLEAN-UP FOR THIS EVENT. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OR FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MEGAN GROSSMAN AT [MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG](mailto:MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG) WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP.

## Cookie & Quilt Sale:

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH FROM 9 A.M.- 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 8:30 A.M. 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 ALSO NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE SALE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH. IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE SATURDAY, PLEASE MARK THE SALMON SHEET IN THE WEEKLY 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 QUILTERS' CHRISTMAS QUILT SALE THIS YEAR IS ON DECEMBER 16 AND 17, 2023 DURING THE COOKIE SALE. QUILT-FILLED TABLES WILL BE SET UP IN THE LINK. MOST OF THE QUILTS ARE IN THE RANGE OF \$20-\$45. MANY OF THE QUILTS ARE MADE BY MARY YOUNG. THIS WE WILL BE OFFERING A LINDA VOZEL FULL-SIZED, HAND-STITCHED QUILT FOR \$125. ALSO, DORA YATES HAS MADE A NATIVITY GROUPING WE ARE OFFERING AT A SILENT AUCTION STARTING AT \$35. THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE GO TO VARIOUS CHARITIES.





## 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

**2024 Offering Envelopes are now available in the Overflow (Rm. 202).** These are dated for 2024, and your box number may be different from last year, so **please wait until January 1<sup>st</sup>** to begin using them.

If you do not see a box with your name, please indicate that you would like one on the notepad provided.

We will have a box ready for you to pick up the next weekend.



## 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.



## Mexico Musings

*"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14*

This was my first time going on the Mexico Mission trip, and I admit I wasn't 100% sure what to expect. However, I felt strongly called to go, so I decided there must be some reason for that. So I packed (and repacked!) my bags and off we went.

We started our first full day at camp with a hike to the top of the mountain to watch the sunrise over the camp. It was a beautiful way to start the day appreciating God's majesty.

Later that morning the vans carrying our niños finally arrived and we waited with great anticipation to find out who we were assigned to. I was pleased to be assigned to 5-year-old Monse, who greeted me with a huge smile and immediately snuggled against me. A few minutes later her little sister Lupita (3) joined our merry band.

Monse is very bright and outgoing and immediately began talking a mile a minute. She would ask a question and wait patiently for me to answer, then repeat herself again. I immediately began to feel discouraged because my Spanish is so poor. Lupita was a different story; she communicated mostly in grunts, facial expressions, and pointing, which was definitely more my speed, when it comes to Spanish.

I was pretty worried about how the week would go, but I guess my "mom skills" kicked in and the girls seemed to take to me. They liked to hold my hands wherever we went, and on the very first evening Lupita fell asleep in my arms at the campfire. Later in the week, both girls fell asleep snuggled up against me after a busy day of activities.

As the week went on, Monse and I learned to communicate better, but I came to realize that both these little girls probably needed a "mama's touch" for the week more than they needed a conversationalist. And God reminded me that, "There is no language that love does not speak." (Ella Wheeler Wilcox).

***¡Gloria a Dios!***

Amy Wanner





## 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**

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## *Our Christian Sympathy is extended to*

the family and friends of Tim Stewart, who passed away on November 1, 2023.

to the family and friends of Marian Breckenridge, who passed away on November 4, 2023.

to the family and friends of Jeannette Sennett, who passed away on November 7, 2023

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

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Family Life Center on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023, from 12 noon until 6 pm.**

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your appointment, or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: **StJohnsGC.**

## *Congratulations On Your Baptism Congratulations*

to Nicholas and Julia Kingsbury  
for the baptism of their daughter,  
**Elizabeth Rose,**  
on Sunday, November 26, 2023.

## **The article deadline for the JANUARY 2024 Eagle is DECEMBER 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

December

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

Letter from the Pastor

***Incarnation*** means *in the flesh*. Jesus was 100% God, and also 100% human.

Why did the Word become flesh in a stable, 2000 years ago? He did it because he longs to be with his children. His plan, from the beginning of creation, has been to live with us in the flesh forever (Rev. 21:22). Jesus came to break through the power of sin that keeps us separated from God. Yes, the world tried to kick Jesus out. Yes, the world killed him. But he rose victorious from the dead in order to give broken sinners access to God, and to make our relationship permanent, in soul and body.

Where does our “bodily” meeting with God take place nowadays? Through the Church, the Body of Christ. God has chosen to make the good news of Jesus known to the world through sinners like you and me. Why? Because he doesn’t want to force anything on the world from the top down. Nor does he want us to try to keep him to ourselves in a private, purely spiritual bubble. He invites us to faith through the witness of other flesh-and-blood people who are just as broken as we are. Through his Church, he continues his bodily intervention in the world.

Hostile powers are at work in our world today, to separate us from the truth of the Incarnation. We are tempted, more and more, to try and separate God from the body.

Our screens, for example, are awesome tools. But as much as they connect us superficially, they can also isolate us from living relationships with other human beings. They make it possible for us to live in our own personal echo chambers.

Also, the enemy is using political pressure quite openly these days to try to force us to stay quiet, and to keep our deepest Christ-centered convictions to ourselves.

This is why believers need to embrace God’s call to be the *Body of Christ*. Christ wants to work through our flesh...through what we say and do. This is how new people come to know his loving lordship, and how old friends continue to grow in love and faith together.

During this Advent-Christmas season, I encourage you to think about how Christ truly embodies himself in our lives. Simple activities like church attendance, regular observance of the Sabbath, Bible-based discussion, loving service, outreach to strangers, care and support for people in need, and encouragement to other believers—all of these are ways that Jesus enfleshes himself in the world through what we do today. He wants to be not only in our hearts, but also incarnate in our schedules.

We understand *incarnation* very well at St. John’s. We are blessed as a congregation to have so many humble people who are willing to pour themselves out in love for others so that we can experience the warm embrace of God. He comes to give us what our hearts are yearning for: full, joyful communion with the Holy Trinity right here and now. This Christmas, let’s welcome our Lord in the flesh.

Christmas blessings to you all!

*Pastor Seth*