

NEWS NOTES

December 10, 2023

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(614) 875-2314 | www.stjohnsgc.org | secretary@stjohnsgc.org

Senior Pastor Seth Jersild | (217)-255-2118 | sjersild@stjohnsgc.org

Associate Pastor Patti Morlock | (740)-405-1548 | pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org



Mark Meuser, Director of Music Ministry

Nick Grossman & David Shrum, Contemporary Worship Leaders

Susan Locey, Director of Celebration Ringers

☞ SERVING TODAY ☞

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: Bill Woodgeard

8:15am: Karen Bentley

11:00am: David and Karen Grossman
Dwight Henricksen

Altar Guild

Dave and Karen Grossman

Linda Wagner, Hunter Thompson

Readers

4:00pm: Holly Starr

8:15am: Gary Smith

11:00am: Sheryl Fraley

Ushers

11:00am: Rick Butsko, Bill Diehl,
Ike Stage, Larry Sutton

Acolytes

8:15am: Ben Previts
Corban Allman

11:00am: Lukas Althoff
Warren Althoff

Greeters

4:00pm: Mary Campbell

8:15am: Carol Penrod

11:00am: MD: Keith and Jane Stenerson
RD: Cheryl Thompson

Lessons Today: Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: To the dedicated staff at St. John's. Given by Jo Dimond.

PULPIT FLOWERS: In honor of our 30th anniversary. Given by Ed and Glenda Sheets.

BULLETINS: In celebration of the birth of our Lord and in memory of Richard's birthday. Given by Vi Davis.

☞ PERSONAL NEWS ☞

PLEASE PRAY for the members who are or were recently in the hospital: Bob Eesley, Joanne Allwine.

THANK YOU, MIKE ESPOSITO! Mike Esposito is retiring from his position as St. John's Facilities Manager on December 31st. We have been so blessed to have Mike in this important role for twenty years! He has faithfully taken care of our building, scheduling maintenance, overseeing custodial work, managing work records and insurance, and attending to the constant challenges involved in the upkeep of our beautiful church building and grounds. Thank you so much, Mike, for your excellent, faithful, and humble service! We encourage you to share your thanks and appreciation for Mike by sharing cards and gifts. You can place them in his mailbox at church (next to the main church office) or by mailing them to him at church:

Mike Esposito
c/o St. John's Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus St.
Grove City, OH

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER: Please join us tonight -**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. Please contact Megan Grossman if you are interested in helping or mark the salmon sheet.

PLEASE NOTE - CHRISTMAS WEEKEND:

Saturday, December 23rd we will still hold 4pm traditional worship.

Christmas Eve Services will be held Sunday, December 24th at 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm, and there will be no Sunday School or morning activities on this date.

Christmas Morning worship will take place at 10am on Monday, December 25th.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE IS HERE! Saturday, December 16th from 9am – noon in rooms 103-104 we will be holding our annual Christmas Cookie and other Christmas Goodies Sale. We are asking for **homemade items only**. Again this year, you will be able to choose your cookies for your plates or we will have prepackaged plates if you prefer. Tell a friend and come get some Christmas goodies! Baked goods can be dropped off by 8:30am on Friday, December 15th in the Family Life Center Kitchen. **Proceeds from our sale will go to the Kitchen Fund.**

OWLS EVENT – DECEMBER 15, 2023: 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 insert 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!

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. They will receive a poinsettia and a small gift bag to let them know that they are being thought of and prayed for. Everything will be provided and can be picked up from the back of the Family Life Center immediately following the late service on December 17th. The families will be notified that someone will be delivering Christmas Kindness to them. So, if you would be willing to help deliver some holiday cheer, please mark the salmon insert to let us know. We hope to deliver to around 50 members/households, so any help is always appreciated.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on **Tuesday, December 19th** in the Family Life Center from 12pm to 6pm. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2776) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: **StJohnsGC**.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY/ANGEL TREE: In the hopes 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 are also doing the Angel Tree again this year. The Angel Tree contains gift items for you to purchase, wrap and return to church (with the angel) **by Saturday, December 16th**. These gifts are going to children in our congregation who otherwise would not have much of a Christmas. The Angel Trees are located in the North Entrance of the Sanctuary and in the Family Life Center. If you or anyone you know of within the congregation would like to be considered for Adopt-A-Family funds, please mark that on the salmon sheet. The names are kept completely confidential.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available in the Overflow (room 202). These are dated for 2024, and your box number may be different from last year, so please wait until January 1st to use them. If you do not see a box with your name, please indicate that you would like a box on the notepad provided. We will have a box ready for you to pick up the following weekend.



PRAYERS AND PINS—2024 St. John’s Bowling Club @ Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl, 3224 S High St, Columbus 43207, (614) 491-7155. The cost is \$15 per person weekly. If you are not present, you may pay the following week. Proceeds will go to our mission funds.

1. Club will bowl at **3:00pm on Sundays starting January 7th to mid-March.**
2. Checks should be made out to WWCB.
3. We will bowl 2 games each week.
4. Teams will consist of 2 players, and substitutions are welcome.

Plan to have a great time! No worries if you are a rookie—It’s about having fun! Contact Dave or Karen Grossman, 614-579-8037, or Jo Dimond, 614-270-3291, jodimond@aol.com. **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE MEXICO MISSION FUNDS!**

MEXICO MISSION 2024: 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.



SUBMITTING A NEWS NOTES ARTICLE? Articles are due by 9am each Wednesday. Please send your article via email, secretary@stjohnsgc.org, or drop it in the church office secure slot.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Please keep in mind the building may be locked at any time outside of normal office hours.






☞ YOUTH NEWS ☞

There will be no Sunday School, youth or adult, on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th.

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

Attendance December 3 - 330

How to give to St. John's:

-  + Place your offering in the collection basket during worship services.
-  + Mail your offering to the church – 3220 Columbus St., Grove City, OH 43123.
-  + St. John's website – 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.
-  + Through your financial institution – they will send a check directly to the church on your behalf.
-  + Through the Vanco Mobile 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.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES!

A SECURE DROP SLOT is located under the staff mailboxes in the hallway near the secretary's office. If you are dropping off a monetary gift or papers with confidential information, please put it through the slot to help ensure security.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Adult Faith Discussion, FH / Book of Matthew, Chapel / Book of Colossians, Rms 301 and 303.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: 2-3 years old, Rm 003 / 4-5 years old, and Kindergarten, Rm 009 / Grades 1 and 2, Rm 204 / Grades 3 and 4, Rm 307 / Grades 5 and 6, Rm 306 / Grades 7 and 8, Rm 302 / High School, Rm 311.

SELAH ROOM: Rm 101, a quiet place available every Sunday from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

JANUARY EAGLE ARTICLES DUE

- 8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Sunday School
9:30am Men's Chorale (Choir Room)
10:00am Small Group (Lib)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
5:00pm **Christmas Program/Dinner Theater (FLC, Kit, 103-4)**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:30am BSF Leaders (101-4, Nursery)
12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
6:00pm Small Group (101)
6:30pm Puppets (FLC)
7:00pm Finance Team (103-4)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 9:30am Quilters (103-4)
6:15pm Fat Quarters Quilt Guild (FH)
7:00pm Boy Scouts (FLC, 103-4)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 9:30am BSF
6:00pm Girl Scouts #6679 (204)
6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
9:30am Small Group (101)
2:00pm Small Group (101)
3:00pm Home School Acting Class (FLC)
6:15pm Celebration Ringers (Sanc)
8:00pm Dartball (away)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 10:30am Bulletin Team (Lib)
11:30am OWLS (FLC)
4:30pm Private Event (Sanc)
6:00pm Private Event (FLC)
8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:00am **Annual Christmas Cookie and Goodies Sale (103-4)**
9:00am **The Quilters' Annual Quilt Sale**
4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:00am **The Quilters' Annual Quilt Sale**
9:30am Sunday School
9:30am Men's Chorale (Choir Room)
10:00am Small Group (Lib)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
12:00pm **Christmas Kindness(103-4)**
12:00pm Private Event (FH)
12:00pm Private Event (FLC)
5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)
6:30pm Men's Discussion Group (103-4)

Saturday, December 23rd, worship will focus on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th worship services will be held at 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm. No morning worship or Sunday School will take place on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10am on Monday, December 25th.

DAILY AND WEEKLY UPDATES ARE POSTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Website: www.stjohnsgc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgrovecity/>